Hunt for man involved in home burglary ends. PAGE 2
Boonie Babies outlines mission to Rotarians. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

$1

# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXII, Issue No. 198

www.saipantribune.com | WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 5, 2022 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

# MVA chief Iakopo resigns

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Iakopo

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Priscilla Iakopo has confirmed her resignation citing that the reason she is stepping down from her post is to support her husband, former CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs executive officer Stanley T. Iakopo, who has also recently resigned.

Yesterday, Iakopo's resignation letter addressed to the MVA board was leaked on various

See MVA on Page 4

## AS TO FUNDING LOCAL MATCH FOR MEDICAID

# Atalig issues official assurance of $20.2M in budgetary allocations

### » Finance secretary also assures 3 branches of govt will get operational funds in FY 2023

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

House of Representatives sergeant-at-arms Pedro Towai hands over the Legislature-approved copy of the budget bill for Fiscal Year 2023 to Amelia Shai, the special assistant for programs and legislative review, at the Governor's Office on Friday at 4:24pm. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed the budget bill into law the following morning, Saturday, averting a government partial shutdown.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig has issued an official assurance of budgetary allocations in the total amount of $20.2 million for Fiscal Year 2023 as Medicaid local match, and also to cover the government retirees' 25% pension benefits.

Atalig likewise assured that the Executive, Legislative, and the Judiciary

See ATALIG on Page 4

# *Salas-Igitol replaces Stanley Iakopo at Military Liaison and Veterans Affairs*

Salas-Igitol

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has appointed military and veterans family advocate Marie Salas-Igitol as executive officer for Military Liaison and Veterans Affairs under the Office of the Governor.

Torres said he is confident that Salas-Igitol will devote her time and efforts to represent the interests of CNMI's active service members and veterans who devoted their lives defending the islands

See SALAS-IGITOL on Page 4

## BOONIE BABIES AT ROTARY

Boonie Babies Saipan co-founders Grace and Aria Keilbach are presented a certificate of appreciation for the presentation on their organization at the Rotary Club of Saipan meeting yesterday at the Giovanni's Restaurant in Hyatt Regency Saipan. Also in photo, from left, are Rotary Club of Saipan treasurer Charles Cepeda, sergeant-at-arms Mario Valentino, president-elect Irene Holl, Club Service director Mary Grace Bautista, president Wendell Posadas, Grace and Aria Keilbach, Rotarian Dr. Donna Krum, vice president Jessy Loomis, Rotarian of the Year Joann Aquino, and Community Service director Dr. Nelson Krum.

LEIGH GASES

See story on Page 3

## INSIDE

### LOCAL

MVA took part in JATA Tourism EXPO 2022 from Sept. 22 to 25, 2022, in Tokyo, Japan.

PAGE 6

### NATION

More than half a million Florida residents faced another day without electricity.

PAGE 12

### HOUSEKEEPING

Here are some top tips to help bring a sense of brightness and light into dark spaces.

PAGE 14

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

# Local

## $50K bail for man accused of sexually abusing minor

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has imposed a $50,000 cash bail on a man accused of sexually abusing a minor since she was in the third grade.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho last Monday imposed a $50,000 cash bail on Jose Fejeran Tudela, a man accused of sexually abusing a minor who is currently in the sixth grade since she was in the third grade.

Tudela is currently facing the charge of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree.

During the hearing, Camacho did not approve Tudela's request to allow him to post 10% of his bail to be released and immediately remanded him back to Department of Corrections custody.

Camacho ordered Tudela to return to court on Oct. 13, at 10am for a preliminary hearing while his arraignment was set for October 17, at 9am.

According to court documents, Tudela was arrested after the minor allegedly reported the long ongoing abuse to a school counselor.

Last Monday, at around 10:40am, Department of Public Safety officers responded to a possible sexual assault of a minor case at a local middle school.

At the scene, the caller, one of the school's counselors, confirmed the incident.

The counselor told police that at around 10am that day, the victim informed her that she had been sexually assaulted by Tudela since she was in the third grade with the last incident happening the previous Saturday, Sept. 24, at around 10pm.

Later, in an interview with the minor, she confirmed that the most recent incident happened at around 10pm on Sept. 24.

The victim said she intended to go to the bathroom that night and when she walked out of her bedroom, she saw Tudela in there so she went to the living room instead. Tudela allegedly approached her there and pulled her shorts to the side and molested her.

The victim said she tried to push Tudela off with her hands and legs, but he kept pushing her hand and legs out of the way. She allegedly told him to stop but he told her to "shut up" and kept looking out into the hallway.

Prior to the Saturday incident, the victim said on Sept. 22, Tudela took her hand and placed it on his privates.

The victim also informed police that the first incident happened when she was in the third grade. At around 11am while she was getting ready for school, Tudela allegedly approached her while she was putting on a pair of long pants and took off her pants and underwear and proceeded to sexually abuse her.

Another incident she recalled was when she was in the fourth grade. She stated she was at home when Tudela approached her, grabbed her legs, and sexually abused her.

## Hunt for man involved in home burglary ends

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety has found and arrested one of two individuals accused of burglarizing the home of former lawmaker Luis John Castro last Sept. 23.

Over the weekend, the hunt for Mario O. Sablan, 45, came to an end after police were able to find him and carry out his arrest.

Sablan is allegedly involved in burglarizing the home of Castro over a week ago with his co-defendant, Shaina Castro, who has since been detained at the Department of Corrections.

Castro

Last Thursday, DPS issued an advisory seeking the community's help to locate Sablan as he was nowhere to be found.

Last Friday, Sablan was brought before Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho for an initial appearance and bail hearing.

During the hearing, Camacho imposed a $10,000 cash bail on Sablan for charges of burglary and theft.

At the hearing, Sablan was represented by assistant public defender Tyler Scott, while assistant attorney general Frances Demapan appeared for the government.

Following the hearing, Sablan was remanded back to DOC custody and was ordered to return to court for a preliminary hearing on Oct. 5, at 10am. Meanwhile his arraignment was set for Oct. 17 at 9am.

According to court documents, at around 11:59pm last Sept. 23, DPS officers responded to a burglary and theft incident in Finasisu.

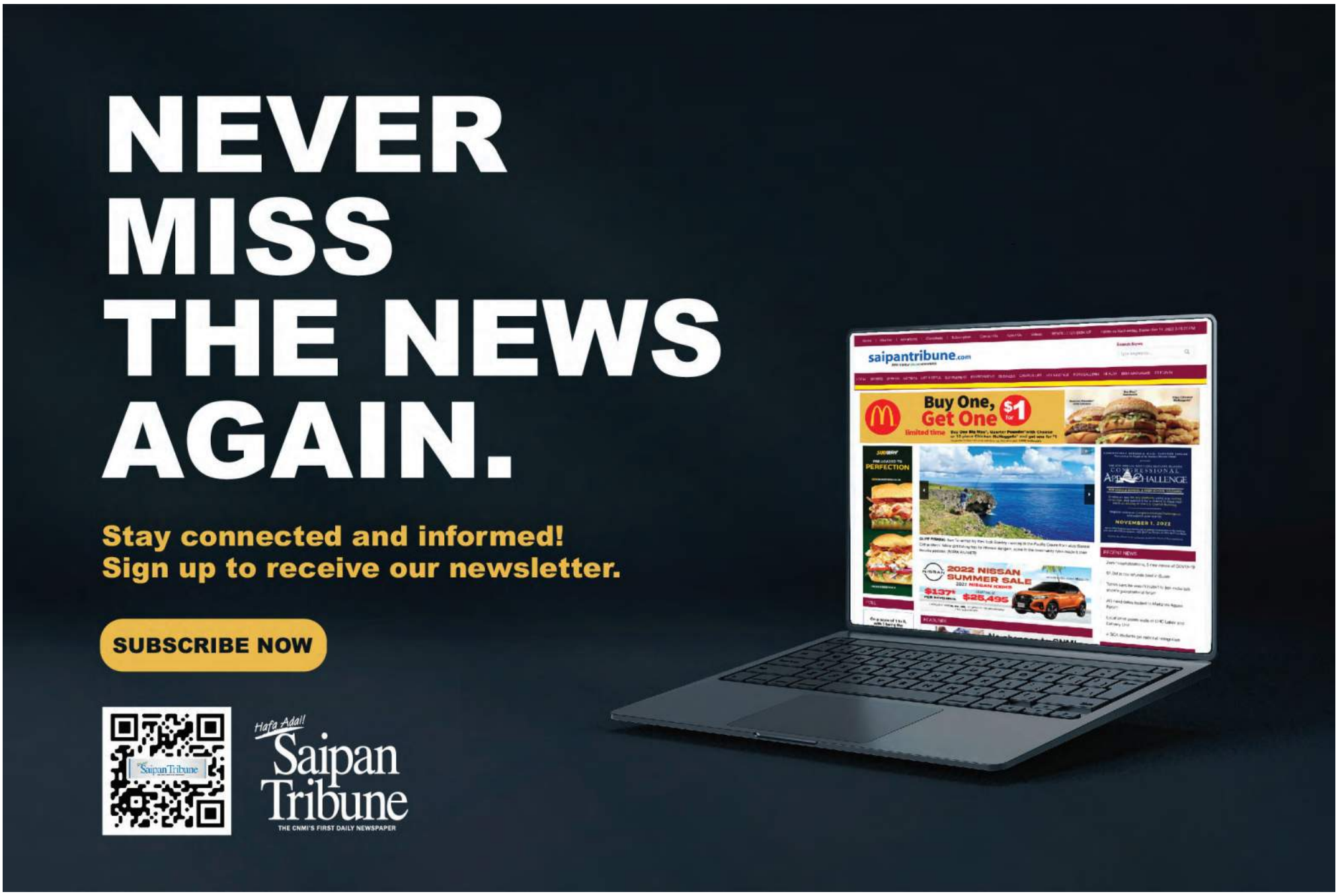
At the scene, officers met with the caller, Castro, who stated that his house had just been broken into.

Castro led the police into the home and showed officers a black slipper which did not belong to him, and his bedroom door which was open. Castro said he had closed his bedroom door before he left his house.

He also showed police surveillance footage that showed a woman, who identified as his niece Shaina Castro, with a man, later identified as Sablan, entering the home. Castro noted that his niece had stolen from him in the past.

Follow-up investigation revealed that the items missing included an Echo brush-cutter, a Vizio television, a backpack with an Asus laptop, an external hard-drive, a drone camera, and an Apple iPad.

Shaina Castro, 23, was located and arrested in Koblerville for charges of burglary and theft.



# Boonie Babies outlines mission to Rotarians

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Boonie Babies Saipan's Grace and Aria Keilbach shed light into the boonie dog problem in the CNMI during yesterday's Rotary Club of Saipan meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

The co-founders of the nonprofit organization spoke to the Rotarians for the first time and informed them the ins and outs of their organization, with their mission to rescue, educate, rehabilitate, and relocate boonie dogs in the forefront of their presentation.

**» At 60K, stray dogs outnumber humans on Saipan**

With the education and outreach aspect, Grace said, "most people are just not aware of pet care–anything about dogs in general, medical care–basically everything. And so we're starting from the very bottom with [the education] and that's how we really start building just how to make things better in general; you have to educate people on what is wrong in order to actually fix the problem. We do a lot of outreach with schools in the community, and basically just [try] to educate the younger generation, who will then grow up to fix the problem, hopefully."

Grace continued "rescue is a huge mission of ours as well. We always have about 40 dogs circling through our house at any given time. That ranges from newborn puppies to older adult dogs that are still hanging out with us that we've had for a few years."

Since their inception in 2018, they have rescued 300 stray dogs and cats from the streets of Saipan.

She added that relocation is their next mission, in that the goal is to "relocate these animals off the island. As of now we've been able to get about five dogs to the states. We're really trying to get United [Airlines] to open that PetSafe travel program because our overall goal is to end the boonie dog population. Our statement is always hashtag 'save the boonies,' but we joke that it's like hashtag 'end the boonies,' because we don't want to see them anymore. So we're trying to solve the problem here, get them off the island, and really put a dent in the stray dog population; as well as create a new culture across [the] Marianas of what it means to have a pet. And, if you don't want a pet, what it means to show respect for animals– specifically to dogs and cats."

The sisters then showed a viral video featured on The Dodo, a media company that shows animal-related videos online, which garnered millions of views on social media featuring Grace and Aria's first dog rescue, Honey, and showed the boonie dog problem around the island.

According to the sisters, there are about 60,000 stray boonie dogs on the island—even more than the current human population of Saipan. They presented a pyramid which shows the gestational period of a dog, which within one year, 16 dogs can be produced; within two years, 128 dogs will be birthed; in three years, 512 dogs; in four years, 2,048 dogs; five years, 12,288; and six years, 67,000 dogs.

They did say that "not even a fraction of that is going to survive, but that's just the absolute crisis that we are dealing with here. Even if a fraction of 67,000, for every one in six years is surviving—that's a lot. And cats can have even more. The gestation period of a cat is three months, two months. So cats are pregnant for two months before they give birth. That's a lot of kittens that can keep coming."

They ended their presentation by saying that there are many ways to help their organization—"You can donate, foster, volunteer, adopt, support—follow us on social media, or borrow a boonie. There are so many things—I know a lot of people come up to us and say no, I can't donate, I can't adopt. Well, that's okay, we have a long list of other things you can do as well. We are always looking for volunteers to come over and help us. We have a group that comes over on Sundays, taking dogs for walks, feeding, handing out treats, spending quality time with them… we also have fostering, which is just a step up from borrowing a boonie. But we do foster from any length. If you want to foster for a week or if you want to foster for three months—we'll take the dog back at any time. We're trying to create pets—we're trying to create well-rounded dogs that are adoptable and can live at home. So those actions of coming over and spending that one on one quality time with one of our dogs really makes the difference in their life and makes them more adoptable which can be the difference between life and death," she said.

At the end of their presentation, Rotary Club members presented them a certificate of appreciation as speakers in the meeting.

For individuals interested in donating or learning more about their organization, look up Boonie Babies Saipan on Instagram, TikTok, and Facebook, or you can visit their website at booniebabiessaipan.com

LEIGH GASES

Sisters Grace, left, Aria Keilbach present their Boonie Babies Saipan organization during the Rotary Club of Saipan meeting yesterday at the Giovanni's Restaurant of Hyatt Regency Saipan.

ARMATECH

Xeeder RFID Hotel Door Locks Installer and Repairer
Tel: (670) 234-8895 | Email: armatech.saipan@gmail.com
Mobile: (670) 287-5525 / (670) 783-8895

# Chong is project coordinator of FOMT

The Friends of the Mariana Trench is welcoming Romana Chong as project coordinator of Project HOPE (Healthy Ocean & People Empowerment).

Chong is coordinating Project HOPE, an ocean science program for CNMI sixth graders funded by a grant from the Administration of Native Americans (ANA) and made available through a partnership with the CNMI Public School System.

The free afterschool science program will take place at the Guma Sakman on Mondays from 12:30pm to 5:30pm. Students will participate in ocean conservation learning activities with a team of college students, outreach specialists, and ocean elders. In addition, swimming lessons will be offered by 500 Sails to participants.

If you are excited about the program and an interested parent of a PSS 6th grader, registration is now open until Oct. 21, 2022.

Pre-registration can be accessed through the FOMT website: www.friendsmarianatrench.org or through our Instagram page @friendsofthemarianatrench.

Project HOPE flyers with registration and program information can be found posted around the community as well.

For more information, contact Romana Chong or Olympia Sablan at (670) 483-3668 or by email at rchong@friendsmarianatrench.org or osablan@friendsmarianatrench.org. ***(PR)***

## COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055•SAIPAN•MP•96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 | FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

**DEVELOPMENT OF ECHO DOCK**
**PORT OF SAIPAN**
**CPA RFP NO. CPA-RFP-010-2022**
**(CPA CONCESSION NO. SEA 2022-01)**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("Authority") is inviting qualified developers and their development teams to submit sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposals (the "RFP") and other contract provisions, for the development of Echo Dock, which is situated north of the Port of Saipan. The Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an Invitation for Bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the Authority because the Authority wishes to acquire services and products that cannot be evaluated by cost alone. This RFP is being issued pursuant to NMIAC § 40-70-205.

The RFP Package is available beginning Wednesday, August 31, 2022, at the Authority's Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport upon payment of a non-refundable administrative fee of $200.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check, or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Other than this administrative fee, proposers are not required to submit a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Authority will hold a briefing for interested parties at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, September 16, 2022, to explain the Authority's development objectives, the RFP process, and to answer questions. The meeting will be held at the Authority's Seaport Conference Room, George Fleming Building. All potential applicants are encouraged to attend but it is not mandatory.

All proposers are requested to pay attention to the following significant dates and times:

| | |
|---|---|
| Date RFP Package becomes available | August 31, 2022 (8:00 AM) |
| Date of RFP briefing meeting | September 16, 2022 (10:00 AM) |
| Deadline to submit Notice of Intent | September 28, 2022 (4:00 PM) |
| Deadline to submit Statement of Qualifications | October 13, 2022 (4:00 PM) |
| Notification of qualified applicants of the RFP | October 28, 2022 |
| Deadline for RFP submission | November 30, 2022 (4:00 PM) |

Qualified proposers shall submit their sealed proposals to the "CPA Evaluation Committee" and mark the outside cover of its submittal as follows: "RFP Proposal: Confidential - Development of the Echo Dock, Saipan (RFP-010-2022)." Five (5) hard copies and one electronic copy on CD, DVD, or flash drive of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:00 p.m. CHST, Wednesday, November 30, 2022**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Proposals submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any proposals received after the proposal submittal deadline shall be returned to the proposer unopened. The Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted if sufficient justification exist that awarding the project would not be in the best interest of the CPA.

**FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:**

**/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO**
Executive Director

Date **8/26/2022**

## COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### INVITATION FOR BIDS
### CUC-IFB-22-040

## A-16 Sewer Lift Station Generator Replacement

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the A-16 Sewer Lift Station Generator Replacement in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The intent of the contract is for the Contractor to provide all labor, equipment, supplies and materials necessary for the removal of the existing A-16 Sewer Lift Station 350 KW Generator and Automatic Transfer Switch, procurement of a new 350 KW generator and Automatic Transfer Switch, modification of the existing concrete generator pad to match the new pad size requirement (if needed), restoration of the existing oil containment berm, repair of exhaust & muffler, and equipment start-up and commissioning. The work shall be done in accordance with the Scope of Work and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the sewer system. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 180 calendar days from date of award of contract.

***The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.***

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **$200.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **September 21, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

**One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid must** be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-IFB-22-040, A-16 Sewer Lift Station Generator Replacement"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 13, 2022**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered**.

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the Unites States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of One Hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The payment and Performance bonds must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on September 23, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer via email address nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org and to Marcela Tenorio, P&S, Purchasing Technician Senior via email, marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

**GARY CAMACHO**
**Executive Director**

**MANNY B. SABLAN**
**Purchasing Administrator**

# Kilili says 83% federal Medicaid match extended

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) disclosed over the weekend that the federal/local matching rate for Marianas Medicaid will remain at the current 83%/17%.

Describing it as "good news," Sablan in his e-kilili newsletter said he is thankful to the fiscal 2023 continuing resolution that the U.S. House of Representatives passed Saturday and expected to be signed shortly by President Joseph Biden.

He said the 83% federal rate, or Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP), is better than for any state.

The delegate said FMAP was set in U.S. Public Law 116-94 in 2019, extended in U.S. Public Law 117-103 earlier this year, but would have expired on Dec. 13 without the House's action Saturday.

He said the continuing resolution runs through Dec. 16, meaning the CNMI only gained three days.

Sablan said by including CNMI's FMAP extension, however, appropriators signal it may be part of an omnibus appropriation covering all of fiscal 2023, when Congress returns to work after the November election.

He said his congressional office has worked continually this year to make sure the need for the Medicaid extension for the Marianas was not forgotten.

"I am grateful to Speaker Pelosi and to Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Pallone and their staff for their commitment to some 38,000 people in the Marianas who depend on Medicaid for their healthcare," Sablan said. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

**BABA B IN KAGMAN 3** CHRYSTAL MARINO

Young individuals and community members smile while listening to Hawaiian singer Baba B as he performs at the Division of Youth Services and CNMI Council of Arts event last Sept 21 at the Kagman Community Center in Kagman 3.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Baba B gave beautiful acoustic renditions of his songs including two of his hit songs *Big Boy* in *Love and All My Life*.

# $15K bail set for man accused of threatening neighbor with gun

**By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has imposed a $15,000 cash bail on a man accused of threatening his neighbor with a gun and hitting him with a car.

Last Friday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho imposed a $15,000 cash bail on Julian Thomas Muna Sablan, a man accused of pointing a gun at his neighbor's head at a store in Garapan and hitting him with a car.

Sablan, 34, is currently facing charges of assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

During his hearing, Sablan was represented by assistant public defender Tyler Scott who asked the court that his client be allowed to post 10% of the cash bail.

However, assistant attorney general Frances Demapan opposed the request and asked the court to maintain the bail amount, citing Sablan's past arrest records, and violations of previously imposed probation.

After hearing from the parties, Camacho denied the defense's request but allowed the defendant to look for a suitable third-party custodian.

Sablan was remanded to the custody of the Department of Corrections and was ordered to return to court for a preliminary hearing on Oct. 7 at 2:30pm while his arraignment was set for Oct. 17 at 9 am.

According to the complaint against Sablan, the victim said he was walking from his house at Lower MIHA and was headed to a store when he saw a white car to his left driving toward him at high speed.

He said he jumped to try to avoid the car from hitting him, but the vehicle still hit his left leg causing him to land on its hood and then fall to the ground.

According to the victim, he did not know the driver at that time until the driver got out of the vehicle and the victim realized that it was his neighbor, Sablan.

The victim said Sablan got out of the car holding what appeared to be a gun and started walking toward him while he was still on the ground.

He said when he got up, Sablan wrapped his left arm around the back of his neck and pointed a gun to his head.

The victim said he tried to take his phone out from his pocket during the altercation to call the police but Sablan grabbed his phone.

The victim said he managed to get his phone back when the storekeeper came out and warned the two that he would call the police.

This prompted Sablan to walk toward the storekeeper and point the gun at him, threatening to go back into the store or he would kill him too.

# MVA

*From Page 1*

social media platforms.

Iakopo later confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* that she did send out the resignation letter confirming that she will soon be leaving her role as managing director.

Meanwhile, in a short statement from MVA board chair Viola Alepuyo, she said on behalf of the board, she wishes Iakopo success in her future endeavors.

"The MVA board received Priscilla Iakapo's resignation today. We respect Ms. Iakapo's decision and wish her much success in the future," she said.

In her letter addressed to MVA board chair Alepuyo and board of directors, Iakopo stated that due to familial reasons, she has decided to step down as managing director effective Nov. 3.

"As I cannot give my support to Gov. [Ralph DLG] Torres under the circumstances of what he has done to my husband, Stanley T. lakopo, I write with regret to inform you that I will be leaving my position as the managing director for the Marianas Visitors Authority. I shall provide a transition period of 30 days, thus, my resignation will be effective Nov. 3, 2022," she stated.

Iakopo, who has served as managing director for the past three years, stated that she will cherish all the experiences she has had with MVA through the years,

"I am proud of the successes the MVA has achieved considering what our tourism industry has endured over the past 3-4 years, through Super Typhoon Yutu and the outbreak of COVID-19. It has been challenging yet a fulfilling and rewarding experience. Spearheading several accomplishments to revitalize our tourism industry, starting with the Travel Bubble with South Korea, the revival of Japan market, the comeback of signature events, application and award of federal grants such as CDBG-DR and TAP grant, and among others, are experiences I will forever cherish," Iakopo said.

Iakopo's ascent as MVA chief came at a challenging time, with the CNMI rebuilding the Japan market with the entry of Skymark Airlines, the weakened Korea market, which suffered after the CNMI figured in international news in the wake of Super Typhoon Yutu in October last year, and a comparatively weaker China market.

In closing her letter, Iakopo commended her MVA staff who have served as the backbone of the department.

"Lastly, I commend the management and staff of MVA for their willingness to strive through these difficult economic times. I am confident that they will persevere as I've always said, they are the backbone of the MVA," the managing director stated.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Iakopo's husband, Stanley T. Iakopo, tendered his resignation letter last Sept. 26, stating that he and Torres no longer share the same values and principles with respect to good order and discipline.

# SALAS-IGITOL

*From Page 1*

and the country.

Salas-Igitol previously served as coordinator of Military and Family Readiness in the CNMI.

Torres' letter to Salas-Igitol on Monday said the Military Liaison and Veterans Affairs shall be responsible for the day-to-day management and operation of the office.

He said it shall have the authority over all military and veterans affairs of the U.S. Armed Forces in all matters that are not within the exclusive jurisdiction of the U.S. government.

Last Sept. 26, citing that Torres denied his request for advance military leave, Stanley T. Iakopo tendered his resignation as executive officer of the Military Liaison and Veterans Affairs.

# ATALIG

*From Page 1*

branches of government will receive operational funds under all others in FY 2023, the same level as FY 2022 appropriation.

The Finance secretary submitted his official assurance of budgetary allocations on Thursday night to Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Sen. Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota), and House of Representatives Ways and Means chair Rep. Donald M. Manglona (D-Saipan).

Hocog and Manglona served as chairperson of the Senate conferees committee and House conferees committee, respectively, that successfully resolved their differences in the budget bill for the government's operations in FY 2023.

Atalig's official assurance was crucial in the bicameral conference committee's compromise and in reaching a final product.

Atalig in the letter told Hocog and Manglona of the financial allocations as compelling assurance of the Torres administration's constitutional commitment in an effort to ensure they have a balanced budget and to avert unnecessary government partial shutdown.

Atalig said he will make available a total of $7.2 million from the Community Disaster Loan as Medicaid local match for FY 2023.

He assured that $13 million is available to cover the 25% retirement fund pension, representing Torres' relentless commitment over and beyond the Settlement Fund's decreed 75% payment to the retirees.

During Torres' signing on Saturday of the budget bill into law, Atalig said the governor is commendable as his whole political career focuses on ensuring that retirees get paid.

He said the commitment continues.

"I would not commit any funding without the governor's approval. And he has adamantly said, what can we do for our retirees and ensure that they get paid," Atalig said.

The Finance secretary said the administration identified the funds not appropriated by the legislature.

He said, however, the administration is able to locate funding and make it available for the retirees, as well as the Medicaid matching of $7.2 million in addition to the $5 million in the current fiscal year to match Medicaid.

Atalig said they're also looking at other funding opportunities to continue to support the Commonwealth Health Center as the CNMI still continues through this pandemic.

"This administration ensures that we keep our community safe and assures that this administration will do everything we can to make sure that we have a strong Marianas," he said.

Shortly after the House approved on Friday afternoon the conference committee's product and thereby passed the budget bill, Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) said the House conferees were adamant and insisted that a funding source for the retirees' 25% pension benefits be identified not just for the first quarter but the entire fiscal year.

Babauta, who was a member of the House conference committee, said they were also firm that the funding source for the local match of the Medicaid be identified by Atalig to fully fund the entire fiscal year.

# Torres proclaims National Fire Prevention Week

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

To promote necessary safety fire precautions in the community and recognize the many fallen firefighters in the country, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed a proclamation

## » Oct. 9 is National Fallen Firefighters Day

Monday designating the second week of October as the National Fire Prevention week and Oct. 9 as National Fallen Firefighters Day.

Torres was joined by Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services acting commissioner Jesse C. Mesa, Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting, American Red Cross of the Northern Mariana Islands executive director John Hirsh, and members of the community at his office on Capitol Hill for the official signing and release of the proclamation.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signs twin proclamations designating the week of Oct. 9-15, 2022 as National Fire Prevention Week and Oct. 9, 2022 as National Fallen Firefighters Day.

The fire-focused week is set to begin with the National Fallen Firefighters Day on Oct. 9, 2022. The National Fallen Firefighters day is one also observed by the U.S. Congress, recognizing the courageous service of firemen nationwide. The proclamation also showed that yearly, an average of 80 firemen, lose their lives, and still many more firefighters risk their lives to ensure the safety of their communities. Torres highly encouraged all CNMI residents, and all patriotic, civic, and educational organizations to observe the day.

To honor and recognize the dedicated service and efforts of firemen and emergency responders, Torres ordered the lowering of American and CNMI flags on all buildings to half-staff.

"I call upon the people of the CNMI to recognize the sacrifices our firefighters and emergency services personnel make, and to honor those who have given their lives for our safety," he said.

The commemorative day will be followed by the National Fire Prevention Week which promotes the education and practice of safety precautions used to prevent or escape fires that may occur.

The 2022 Fire Prevention Week theme is "Fire won't wait. Plan your escape." The goal is to remind residents of the need to have a home fire escape plan.

The proclamation also notes the service of DFEMS, which has served the community through spreading awareness about fire prevention and protection, and is dedicated to safety and security of all CNMI residents and visitors.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, with Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services acting commissioner Jesse C. Mesa, DFEMS, Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting, American Red Cross of the Northern Mariana Islands executive director John Hirsh, and members of the community, gather to proclaim the week of Oct. 9-15, 2022 as National Fire Prevention Week and Oct. 9, 2022 as National Fallen Firefighters Day.

# Hyatt to host 'mwar' workshops this month

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Third from left, Ashley Reiko Pangelinan of Pualani Crown during one of her previous workshops.

Hyatt Regency Saipan in cooperation with flower artist Ashley Reiko Pangelinan of Pualani Crown will hold flower crown or "mwaar" workshops for in-house guests and CNMI residents on Oct. 8, 15, and 22, 2022 from 3pm to 4:30pm at the Lobby Lounge.

The workshop aims to promote local culture to visiting tourists and give the community activity options on a weekend. Pangelinan, who is a Kagman High School alumnae, will share how her grandmother taught her to combine fresh local flowers and leaves to make a flower crown from the heart.

The flower crown or "mwaar" is a long-standing Marianas tradition that signifies beauty, abundance and celebration.

Hyatt Regency Saipan was established in the CNMI in 1981 and is the first and only international hotel on the island. It is committed to deliver the Hyatt experience that is centered on authentic hospitality, relaxation, and making a difference in people's lives.

For reservations, please call Hyatt Regency Saipan (670) 234-1234 loc. 5811. ***(PR)***

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT**
**FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

| | |
|---|---|
| IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: CARMEN CASTRO REYES, Deceased. | Civil Case No. 22-0217 CV<br>NOTICE OF HEARING ON VERIFIED PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION and NOTICE TO CREDITORS |

**TO: ALL HEIRS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES, AND CREDITORS OF: CARMEN CASTRO REYES, DECEASED**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the petition of JOSEPH C. REYES and KIMBERLY NICOLE R. MANGLONA for the issuance of letters of administration of this estate will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Presiding/ Associate Judge, on the 20th day of October 2022, Thursday, at 10:00 a.m. at the Guma Hustisia, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, of any, why the order should not be made.

For further particulars, please refer to the Petition on file herein, or contact Pro Se Petitioners, Joseph C. Reyes and Kimberly Nicole R. Manglona, P.O. Box 500533, Saipan, MP 96950; telephone (670) 483-4258.

Pursuant to Rule 21, NMI R. Prob. P., notice is hereby given to all creditors of the decedent, CARMEN CASTRO REYES, or of her estate, that they must file their claims with the Clerk of the Superior Court, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, within sixty (60) days of the first publication of this Notice, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated this 27th day of September 2022.

Patrick V. Diaz, Clerk of Court
/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
P.O. BOX 500861 CK
SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 664-3200/1
FAX: (670) 664-3237
info@mymarianas.com
www.mymarianas.com
The Marianas

## SPECIAL BOARD MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority hereby gives notice that a **Special Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on **Thursday, October 6, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.** at the **MVA Conference Room.**

## MEETING AGENDA

1) **Preliminary Matters**
   a. Call to Order
   b. Roll Call
   c. Adoption of Agenda

2) **Public Comments**

3) **Committee Reports**
   a. TRIP Korea

4) **Old Business**
   a. Global Branding – Mascot Character Proposal
   b. Christmas Lighting Display

5) **New Business**
   a. RFP for Other Markets
   b. ITB Asia 2022
   c. PATA Annual Summit 2022
   d. DEMA Show 2022

6) **Executive Session**

7) **Miscellaneous/Announcements**

8) **Adjournment**

/s/ Viola Alepuyo
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**
**COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)**
**RFP22-CHCC/CGC-026**

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCT. 17TH, 2022 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)**

**"COMPREHENSIVE CASE MANAGEMENT APPLICATION"**

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.HEALTH]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**
**COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)**
**RFP22-CHCC/NCDB-027**

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCT. 17TH, 2022 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)**

**"NCD-CHW 2022 PROGRAM EVALUATION"**

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.HEALTH]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

Faith, Hope and KARIDAT

**A NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS SOCIAL SERVICE**

**JOB VACANCY ANNOUCEMENT**

## ONE (1) FULL TIME SHELTER WORKER

For more information, job description and application can be obtained from Karidat Main Office at Sister Remedios Community Center Chalan Kanoa.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED: Complete application form, copy of diploma, resume, police clearane valid within 6 months and a copy of valid CNMI driver's license.

**NO PHONE INQUIRIES PLEASE.**
**CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2022 AT 4:00PM**

# MVA features Marianas nature, culture at JATA Tourism Expo

The Marianas Visitors Authority joined representatives of 77 other international countries and regions, businesses, and organizations at JATA Tourism EXPO 2022 from Sept. 22 to 25, 2022, in Tokyo, Japan.

JATA Tourism EXPO 2022 was organized by Japan Travel, Tourism Association and Japan Association of Travel Agents, and Japan National Tourism Organization, and the expo is internationally recognized as one of the largest travel events in the world.

The event was held at Tokyo Big Sight Convention Center and attracted national tourism agencies, airlines, hotels, travel agencies, cruise companies, other tourism professionals and the

traveling public. The MVA joined other exhibitors in providing the latest tourism information to visitors and professional members of the travel trade. The first two days of the expo were focused on B2B appointments and walk-in meeting with travel trade and media partners, while the last two days were open to the public. This year, about 43,000 tourism professionals joined the event on the travel trade days, while an estimated 79,000 consumers joined the third and fourth days of the event.

PHOTOS BY MVA

Chamorro and Carolinian dances are performed at the Marianas booth at JATA Tourism Expo 2022 held on Sept. 22-25, 2022, in Tokyo, Japan.

Whilhelmina Marciano, standing left, teaches mwar-making at the Marianas booth at JATA Tourism Expo 2022 held on Sept. 22-25, 2022, in Tokyo, Japan.

"Consumers have a lot of pent up travel demand and showed strong interest in travel in the event," said MVA deputy managing director Judy Torees. "We received a large audience of participants at our booth up until the last minute of closing, and we will continue to work with our partners and consumers to move this market forward."

The MVA shared information and collaterals about The Marianas and its tourism resources. In addition, visitors to the booth had the opportunity to learn coconut frond weaving, banana-printing, and "mwar" (flower head lei)-making. Travel influencer Kei (FB@kazukiyo0427) had live talk shows at the booth twice a day. A quiz competition about The Marianas also awarded Marianas-branding giveaways to winners.

JATA Tourism EXPO provides opportunities for travel professionals to exchange travel information and conduct effective business meetings, while inspiring consumers through the power of travel.

United Airlines flies to Saipan in The Marianas three times a week from Tokyo.

JATA Tourism Expo 2023 will be held on Oct. 26-29, 2023, in Osaka, Japan. ***(PR)***

B2B meetings are held the Marianas booth with travel trade and media reps at JATA Tourism Expo 2022 held on Sept. 22-25, 2022, in Tokyo, Japan.

Attendees of JATA Tourism Expo 2022 held on Sept. 22-25, 2022, in Tokyo, Japan, participate in the quiz contest at the Marianas booth.

Marianas Visitors Authority Board vice chair Gloria Cavanagh, in orange, leads the Marianas delegation at JATA Tourism Expo 2022 held on Sept. 22-25, 2022, in Tokyo, Japan.

# CCDF Cohort 2-partner agency completes Mind in the Making Training

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Zinna Agulto and Sannivette Sablan recently completed the Mind in the Making training under the CNMI Brain Builders Science of Early Learning initiative.

The CNMI Child Care Development Fund Program, in partnership with Evergreen Learning, completed a series of training sessions with its Cohort 2-Partner Agency, CHCC- Home Visiting Program for the CNMI Brain Builders Science of Early Learning initiative last Sept. 18.

The training was centered on the Mind in the Making (MITM), which provides knowledge about the scientific tenets of early childhood development and how to boost the life skills of children ages 0 to 8. MITM is the science foundation that sets why we have to elevate the importance of the first 5 years of child development, particularly in supporting young children's brain development.

Now that they have completed the training, they are ready to facilitate their own training for their staff, as well as the parents and families that they serve. Completing the training are Zinna Agulto and Sannivette Sablan, supported by their manager, Yuline Fitial.

The training was facilitated by Melissa Palacios, Science of Early Learning coordinator, and assisted by Rayanna Fitial, Science of Early Learning administrative assistant.

CCDF and Evergreen Learning extend their congratulations to its Cohort 2-partner agency. ***(PR)***

# Landmark Undersea Access for Homes Act signed into Law

**HAGATNA, Guam**—Bill 277-36, the Guam Undersea Access for Homes Act (GUAHA), was signed by the acting governor last Sept. 29 and became P.L. 36-108. The measure passed with all senators present voting in favor of the bill.

Authored by Speaker Therese Terlaje, the bill is a culmination of a year and a half of research that was translated into a modern policy for the licensing of submerged lands under the jurisdiction of the CHamoru Land Trust (CLTC) for the purpose of landing telecommunications cables on Guam. The final amended measure came before the legislature with urgency to provide resources for the CLTC to negotiate new and expiring leases.

Terlaje

While previous leases for submerged lands licenses were undervalued as low as $5000 per year, GUAHA brings the baseline for new or renegotiated leases up to $100,000 per year per cable with an escalation of 2% per annum. The funds generated from these licenses would get deposited into the CHamoru Land Trust Survey and Infrastructure Fund since a lack of surveys on CLTC property is one of the primary roadblocks to the issuance of residential and agricultural leases.

"Providing resources for surveys is a critical need to get families into homes on CLTC properties. The advantages of this bill are far reaching, and this measure is a stepping stone to lift our entire community up. Our residents continue to struggle with affordable housing options for their families and with record inflation, gas prices, and utility costs, it is my hope that we continue to enact policies that encourage fair and responsible development on Guam that directly impacts the lives of our families in a positive way," stated the Speaker.

International consortiums join forces to provide connectivity across the globe that include companies such as Facebook, Amazon, and Google who fund these multimillion-dollar telecommunications projects. The new law positions Guam appropriately in the global market to land cables for these companies without cost to Guam's taxpayers, and ensures environmental safeguards are in place to protect precious land resources.

"It is my hope that the people of Guam will be encouraged by the major progress we have made today on their behalf."

The Guam Undersea Access for Homes Act was cosponsored by Sens. Telo Taitague, Sabina Perez, Telena Cruz Nelson, Christopher Duenas, and Joanne Brown. ***(PR)***

# USCG Forces Micronesia fast response cutter receives first unit award

**SANTA RITA, Guam**—The USCGC Myrtle Hazard (WPC 1139) crew received the ship's first unit award last Sept. 30, highlighting the new platform's value in the region.

The Coast Guard Unit Commendation, presented for meritorious service from January 2020 to April 2022, acknowledges the first FRC to arrive in Guam, overcoming the associated challenges with the 10,500 nautical miles transit from Key West made more complex by the COVID-19 pandemic and the crew's initial patrol success.

"My thanks to those who were here for all they did to get the ship ready, to get the ship here, and to establish that first FRC presence in the region," said Capt. Nick Simmons, commander of U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia. "The things in this award are still pertinent. We're still going 3,000 miles one way to do the mission. The original Pacific Area memo on FRC employment in the region says FRCs will normally operate within 200 nautical miles of shore. Our ships only operate within 200 nautical miles of land when we're going to the place we're going to operate. Nearly everything is outside that scope. These crews push the limits of this platform in this region for very rewarding and valuable work. This award is an exclamation point on everything you have accomplished as a crew and that we will accomplish together moving ahead."

USCG

The USCGC Myrtle Hazard (WPC 1139) stand for a photo with Capt. Nicholas Simmons, commander of U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia, and the ship's first unit award in Guam on Sept. 30, 2022, highlighting the new platform's value in the region. The Coast Guard Unit Commendation, presented for meritorious service from January 2020 to April 2022, acknowledges the first FRC to arrive in Guam, overcoming the associated challenges with the 10,500 nautical miles transit from Key West made more complex by the COVID-19 pandemic and the crew's initial patrol success.

USCG

Nicholas Simmons, commander of U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia, on behalf of the Pacific Area commander presents the USCGC Myrtle Hazard (WPC 1139) with the ship's first unit award in Guam on Sept. 30, 2022, highlighting the new platform's value in the region. The Coast Guard Unit Commendation, presented for meritorious service from January 2020 to April 2022, acknowledges the first FRC to arrive in Guam, overcoming the associated challenges with the 10,500 nautical miles transit from Key West made more complex by the COVID-19 pandemic and the crew's initial patrol success.

USCG

The USCGC Myrtle Hazard (WPC 1139) is pierside in Guam Sept. 30, 2022. The Myrtle Hazard is the 39th 154-foot Sentinel-class fast response cutter named for the first enlisted woman, an electrician, and radio operator, in the U.S. Coast Guard. The ship was commissioned along with its sister ships, Oliver Henry (WPC 1140) and Frederick Hatch (1143), in Guam in July 2021. These cutters are a vital part of the U.S. Coast Guard's enduring regional presence serving the people of the Pacific by conducting 10 of the Service's 11 statutory missions with a focus on search and rescue, defense readiness, living marine resources protection, and ensuring commerce through marine safety and ports, waterways, and coastal security.

In another notable first, the crew exercised a bilateral agreement with partners in the Republic of Palau to provide a first-of-its-kind technical assistance boarding of a People's Republic of China-flagged fishing vessel suspected of poaching within the Palau National Marine Sanctuary in December 2020. This effort led to a boarding and case package, which enabled the seizure of catch and $30,000 in cash, the detention of 28 crew, and vital information sharing on illegal fishing activities with stakeholders.

"For those remaining from the first crew, we're still feeling a lot of your effort and now contributing our own as the second crew. That transit, 10,500 nautical miles, is substantial. I'm really proud to be part of this crew and especially thankful to our folks on shore for always supporting us," said Lt. Jalle Merritt, commanding officer of USCGC Myrtle Hazard.

The Myrtle Hazard is the 39th 154-foot Sentinel-class fast response cutter named for the first enlisted woman, an electrician, and radio operator, in the U.S. Coast Guard. The ship was commissioned along with its sister ships, Oliver Henry (WPC 1140) and Frederick Hatch (1143), in Guam in July 2021. These cutters are a vital part of the U.S. Coast Guard's enduring regional presence serving the people of the Pacific by conducting 10 of the Service's 11 statutory missions with a focus on search and rescue, defense readiness, living marine resources protection, and ensuring commerce through marine safety and ports, waterways, and coastal security.

For more U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam news, visit us on DVIDS or subscribe! You can also visit us on Facebook or Instagram at @USCGForcesMicronesia. ***(PR)***

# November is National Novel Writing Month

Do you want to write a novel? It's almost time! November is NaNoWriMo—National Novel Writing Month. The challenge is to write a 50,000 word novel in one month. It's a challenge taken by hundreds of thousands of people around the world each year! In 2021, 427,653 people participated! Be cool! Join the movement! It's not too late to sign up for November 2022! Go to nanowrimo.org! It's free.

Worried you won't be ready to write? Marianas Writers Movement is sponsoring NaNoWriMo prep sessions during October. They're also free.

Come to the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library from 10am to 12 noon Saturdays, Oct. 8, 15, and 23 for free writing prep sessions, help, encouragement, and some giveaways. Six banned novels will be available as giveaways to participants this Saturday, Oct. 8, 2022, in honor of the Banned Book Week. These include Ana on the Edge, Blood Sport, All Boys Aren't Blue, The African American and Latinx History of the United States, and Perfect on Paper and The Hate U Give. You can read book reviews of the last two at https://marianaswritermovement.org .

You've got nothing to lose! It's fun! And imagine being able to tell everyone you've written a novel! Sign up at Nanowrimo.org. Come to the prep sessions at the Joeten Kiyu Public Library. Win prizes, gain acclaim, and have fun! ***(PR)***

# Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXII, Issue No. 198

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

**Mark Rabago** ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

## EDITORIAL

# Receiving Florida unemployment benefits better be easier for Ian's victims than it was for COVID's

Those left jobless by Hurricane Ian, mainly the thousands of people who worked in the tourism industry in Sanibel, Fort Myers and Naples and Pine Island, are about to learn whether the state's improved unemployment website will handle the load more effectively than it did during the COVID-19 pandemic. It better. These hurricane-stunned Floridians do not need another headache.

In 2020, when the pandemic left service, hospitality and retail workers from Miami to the Panhandle without employment, many experienced inhumane wait times and log-on problems with the CONNECT system to claim to request benefits. CONNECT crashed repeatedly. The unemployed could not be blamed for thinking the state did not want them to receive benefits.

Now it's a new year and a new disaster for Florida's working people, many of whom helped sustain the tourism industry in hard-hit Lee and Charlotte counties.

Sunday, the state's Department of Economic Opportunity issued this statement in anticipation of another onslaught of unemployment claims this week:

"Right now, Floridians impacted by Hurricane Ian are trying to meet their critical needs, and what they don't need are roadblocks interfering with their recovery," said DEO Secretary Dane Eagle in a news release."Gov. DeSantis' swift action to cut red tape and waive reporting requirements for reemployment assistance is the right choice to get families the help they need to get back on their feet faster, and DEO stands ready to distribute this vital assistance as quickly as possible."

The release added, "Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) is available to Florida businesses and residents in FEMA disaster-declared counties whose employment or self-employment was lost or interrupted as a direct result of Hurricane Ian and are not eligible for regular state or Federal Reemployment Assistance benefits."

The state has made filing easier by lifting the requirement that the jobless search for new employment immediately.

That's great news. It will be greater still if the whole thing functions smoothly. After all, in 2021, the Florida Legislature allocated $72 million for DEO to transform CONNECT into a fully cloud-based system over the next two years. It's unclear how much work has been done, and we know the state was in the process of hiring 435 more people for behind-the-scenes work.

Last year, Eagle gave the end of the summer 2022 as the date when the streamlined system would be working.

That's right about now, meaning CONNECT has to get it right this time. The state cannot add insult—again—to shell-shocked Floridians' injury.

© 2022 *Miami Herald*

# Putin's threat of a nuclear strike on Ukraine may not be a bluff. What do we do now?

**By DOYLE MCMANUS**
Los Angeles Times

*Doyle McManus is a columnist for* The Los Angeles Times. *Readers may send him email at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com*

After weeks of reverses, Russia's army is still losing ground in the battlefields of Ukraine.

President Vladimir Putin's response, characteristically, has been to escalate on other fronts.

Putin expanded the military draft, announcing a call-up of 300,000 reservists and prompting an exodus of Russian men to neighboring countries.

On Friday, he formally announced Russia's annexation of four Ukrainian provinces, turning them — at least rhetorically — into Russian territory that he can never negotiate away.

Most chilling, Putin renewed threats that he is ready to use nuclear weapons if Ukraine's troops try to take those provinces back.

"In the event of a threat to the territorial integrity of our country … we will certainly make use of all weapon systems available to us," he said. "This is not a bluff."

On that count, Putin may be telling the truth.

"It isn't a bluff," Fiona Hill, who served on the National Security Council staff under President Donald Trump, told me. "He's losing on the battlefield, so he's trying to intimidate Ukraine and the West into giving up."

"If Putin faces the imminent prospect of losing the war, he's likely to use nuclear weapons before being defeated," warned Matthew Kroenig of the Atlantic Council, a former Pentagon strategist. "This is probably the closest we've come to nuclear use since at least the 1980s."

The weapons Putin is brandishing aren't the massive long-range missiles aimed at the United States in the Cold War balance of terror. The targets wouldn't be New York or Washington; that kind of strike would provoke an immediate U.S. nuclear response.

Instead, he's threatening to use some of the estimated 2,000 "tactical nuclear weapons" that Russia has stockpiled for battlefield use — smaller warheads, but potentially devastating. Some of those "low-yield" nukes are as powerful as the bomb the United States dropped on the Japanese city of Hiroshima in 1945, killing at least 70,000. Some are larger.

Strategists suggest that Putin may be considering several options: He could detonate a "demonstration shot" over the Black Sea or a remote rural area to grab the world's attention.

More likely, he could target large concentrations of Ukrainian troops in hopes of changing the military momentum on the ground.

Or he could attack Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, in an attempt to decapitate the Ukrainian government — an act that could also kill tens of thousands of civilians.

In each case, his larger goal would presumably be the same: to shock Ukrainians, Europeans and Americans into standing down from the war and accepting his territorial demands.

To which the U.S. response has been straightforward: It won't work.

"Any use of nuclear weapons will be met with catastrophic consequences for Russia," Jake Sullivan, President Joe Biden's national security adviser, said last week. "The United States will respond decisively … and we will continue to support Ukraine in its efforts to defend its country."

Sullivan refused to spell out publicly what those "catastrophic consequences" might be.

But other officials have long made an important point: The U.S. response to a Russian nuclear strike in Ukraine need not be nuclear in return.

Conventional strikes against Russian military targets using long-range missiles with precision-guided warheads could have equal military impact with fewer negative side effects.

U.S. or Ukrainian forces could use U.S.-supplied missiles to destroy the Russian bases that launched the nuclear attack, sink Russia's Black Sea fleet or both.

A nonnuclear response could have several advantages. It would avoid putting the United States and Russia on a Cold War-style ladder of nuclear escalation. It could avoid allowing Putin to paint his war in Ukraine as a struggle against the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. And it could help the U.S. and its allies rally global opposition to Russia as the only country to break the post-World War II taboo against the use of nuclear weapons.

It could also help the Biden administration preserve two goals that have sometimes been in tension: supplying Ukraine with enough weapons to defeat Russia's invasion while seeking to avoid — or at least limit—direct combat between Russia and NATO.

"We are doing everything we can to help the Ukrainians to defend themselves," Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken said last

***See PUTIN'S on Next Page***

**EDITORIAL POLICY** Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

# State of Northern Marianas College

*Editor's Note: The following is the transcript of Northern Marianas College president Galvin Deleon Guerrero's speech that was delivered at the State of Education Address on Thursday, Sept. 22, 2022, at the Saipan World Resort.*

***Last of a three-part series***

The college has already begun investing in our economy with the recent decision by the Small Business Administration to establish and fund a Small Business Development Center, or SBDC, in the CNMI, which is once-again housed at the college. Since earning this designation, the SBDC has aggressively engaged with community partners to support the governor's BOOST program, bring women entrepreneurs together for training and development, work with local farmers on securing micro-grants, and hosting several small business nights at the college's Mango Terrace.

Complementing the work of our SBDC, the college's Community Development Institute has begun active outreach efforts to offer more modular training programs to our community, develop a maritime program with 500 Sails, further develop the CNMI's apprenticeship program, and even offer TED-type leadership talks to companies and organizations.

The college's investment in our economy is best exemplified by our graduates, who have accomplished amazing things for our community. Consider, for example, Charlie Bell Foster and Jamerie Paras, whose research into a pay-as-you-go concept for taxes was showcased at a Saipan Rotary Club meeting and featured in a recent issue of TAGA Plus magazine.

Finally, to take care of our community, we need to foster a spirit of stewardship. This happens when we practice regenerative living, cultivating behaviors that promote diversity, equity, inclusion, justice, and access, and promoting cultural enrichment that protects our islands' indigenous legacy.

In this regard, the college's Cooperative Research Extension and Education Services is leading the way. While we do not have the time today to talk about the millions of dollars, dozens of programs, and countless research publications that CREES handles, I'd like to share a few recent examples with you. CREES was recently awarded $3.4 million to conduct food science research and spur further economic development in the CNMI. The project, led by NMC-CREES food scientist, program leader, and professor Dr. Zaidul Sarker, will use the bulk of the funds to purchase equipment for the food science lab on Saipan and a smaller lab on Rota.

CREES's Aquaculture and Natural Resources Program also secured a $536,000 grant to construct mangrove crab farming demonstration units on the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The demonstration units, which are funded by a Technical Assistance Program grant through the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs, will be used by NMC-CREES to provide training to any individual who would like to pursue mangrove crab farming.

CREES's 4H Marianas is yet another phenomenal program that cultivates stewardship in our community by offering a wide array of experiences to young people in health, science, agriculture, and civic engagement, such as the extremely successful Camp Magalahi summer program.

And CREES's very own dean, Patty Coleman, was part of a team that secured first place in the semi-finals of the University of Oxford's "Map the System" competition. Their research focused on a food systems map that identified "complex systemic causes" of the prevalence of high-risk diets (processed foods, sugary drinks) in the CNMI, and how the indigenous people of the Marianas have some of the highest rates of diet-related diseases in the world.

These are all examples of stewardship. After all, at the end of the day, stewardship is what we're about. And the future that lies ahead calls on all of us to be stewards, because, to be honest with you, when I look at the years ahead, it's gonna be rough.

Climate change isn't getting any better. We can expect more typhoons like Super Typhoon Yutu to occur more frequently and with equal or even greater intensity.

Globalization is not going away and we remain increasingly vulnerable to economic forces beyond our control. To put it bluntly: we all see the fiscal cliff coming when federal funds dry up as our tourism industry continues its slow recovery. You think budgets are tight now? Wait until then.

**By GALVIN DELEON GUERRERO**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

*Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero is the president of Northern Marianas College.*

And, if this pandemic has taught us anything, it's that what happens across the globe—inflation, the war in the Ukraine, or rising tensions in China—can and will affect us here in the Pacific.

However, when I look ahead at these looming threats, I am reminded about that girl, saving starfish, one at a time. When looking at the hundreds of starfish that needed saving, she could have given up. She could have given in to fear and despair. But she didn't. Neither should we. We can make a difference, no matter how small and no matter how hard and no matter how long it takes. So long as we can save one starfish, one person, one Commonwealth, we should at least try.

You see, I firmly believe that we can and we will make it through the challenges that lie ahead, if we embrace stewardship and take care of our community, take care of our resources, and, perhaps most importantly, take care of each other.

That's what our ancestors did when they navigated the entire Pacific with nothing more than vessels carved by their own hands, wisdom passed down for generations, and deep faith in each other. They knew that if they took care of each other, no matter how violent the storm, how dark the night, or how perilous the journey, they would find their way, together. So can we. So should we.

So, steady the course, batten down the hatches, and let's sail ahead together, as stewards of each other. And, above all, stay safe, stay calm, and sail on.

# Hurricane Fiona devastated Puerto Rico. When will these Americans get the support they need?

On Sept. 18, nearly five years to the day of Hurricane Maria, the force of Hurricane Fiona and a fragile power grid plunged Puerto Rico into a frightening yet familiar darkness. From low-lying to mountainous regions, flooding and landslides battered vulnerable communities, and with it, resurfaced painful memories of Hurricane Maria.

More than a week after Hurricane Fiona made landfall, approximately 400,000 residences are without electricity. This was not unexpected. Public confidence in Puerto Rico's power grid is so low that residents braced for a blackout even before this latest disaster.

In 2021, Puerto Rico's public grid, Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority, was privatized and contracted out to Luma Energy, a U.S-Canadian energy company. Privatization was pitched to the public as the best option for a more reliable service.

Puerto Ricans' skepticism has since been vindicated. Under Luma, energy prices have soared while delivery has remained subpar. Some families and elderly residents have been forced to choose between paying for their medicine and food, or their electricity bill. Puerto Rico not only has among the highest electrical rates in the United States, but also, at 43%, one of its highest poverty rates. Many public employees, like teachers and emergency medical professionals, are working two or more jobs to pay for basic needs.

Each community across the archipelago faces its own obstacles, but all share the awareness that we cannot rely on a federal and local government that has chronically failed us. In a recent congressional hearing, a Federal Emergency Management Agency Official, Anne Bink, reported that only $40 million out of the $13.2 billion allocated for public utilities, has been disbursed. This shocking shortfall follows FEMA's own admitted failures in its post-Maria response, such as a lack of critical supplies and effective logistical coordination with the local government.

My 84-year-old grandmother, Eva Fret Pabón, has experienced multiple hurricanes in her lifetime and suffered from government neglect. She lives alone in Vega Baja, a municipality about 45 minutes from the capital city, San Juan. After Hurricane Maria struck on Sept. 20, 2017, she was left without power for over five months and without potable water for three months. Today, she faces the same challenge and is once again without electricity for fans, cooking or light.

Eva was as prepared as she could be for what was initially forecast as a tropical storm. However, shortly before Fiona made landfall, the tropical storm was upgraded to a Category 1 hurricane, and residents scrambled to acquire supplies. This put tremendous pressure on families and elderly residents living below the poverty line.

Facing an ineffective government response, reliable solutions have come in the form of mutual aid centers and community activism. Local infrastructure that developed in response to Hurricane Maria in 2017 enabled Puerto Ricans in the archipelago and in the diaspora to quickly mobilize their own emergency response.

Even so, warm meals are hard to come by. Eva and her neighbors plan and share meals with the few ingredients that they have access to, which includes mostly canned meat and vegetables. When her knees are too sore to walk, friends and family deliver necessary supplies or drive her to medical appointments. Local networks of neighbors and family work collaboratively to address the needs of each person. The effects of housing disparities, COVID-19, natural disasters and economic inequality on mental health is widely overlooked.

**By KARINA N. GONZÁLEZ**
Los Angeles Times

*Karina Nicole González is a school-based bilingual speech-language pathologist and author of the recently released children's book* The Coquíes Still Sing/Los coquíes aún cantan*. @wordsbykarina*

Media silence has accentuated the unequal relationship between Puerto Rico and the United States. The destruction of whole communities by these hurricanes is broadcast on televisions nationwide, but there's inadequate coverage that centers on the hardships these communities face in the aftermath.

Puerto Rican superstar Bad Bunny is breaking the media blockade. In his new music video for "El Apagón," which means blackout in Spanish, the titular song transitions into a documentary titled, "Aquí Vive Gente," by independent journalist Bianca Graulau.

In it, Graulau invited residents to speak candidly about their experiences while drawing attention to multiple inequities in Puerto Rico: privatization of public beaches and schools, predatory housing practices, and government corruption. Political and economic disenfranchisement will not stop Boricuas from preserving our culture, language and our very existence. Here, "Solo el pueblo salva al pueblo," meaning "only the people save the people," is a rallying cry. And it shouldn't take one prominent voice — or the suffering of low-income civilians living in darkness — to get Puerto Ricans the help and resources they need after another climate disaster.

## PUTIN'S

*From Page 8*

week. "We're also determined that this war not expand."

Or, as Biden has put it more bluntly, "We're trying to avoid World War III."

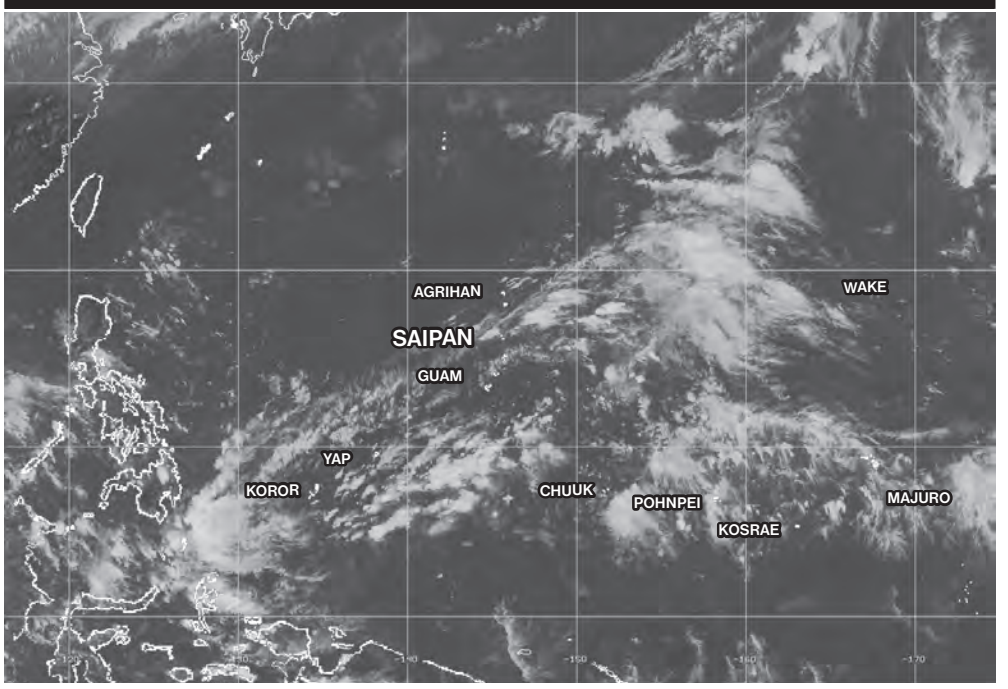
A Russian nuclear strike on Ukraine would inevitably bring World War III a step closer. The challenge for Biden is to persuade Putin that such an attack would be a losing proposition —and, if deterrence fails, to keep the conflict that follows from spiraling out of control.

# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

| TODAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Partly sunny | Mostly sunny | Mostly sunny | A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy | A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy |
| 88° 78° | 88° 78° | 88° 79° | 87° 79° | 89° 78° |

## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE




**PICTURE TIME: 7:48 AM, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2022**

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Scattered showers continue to affect locations from Rota northward to Saipan and the adjacent coastal waters this morning, with showers more isolated near Guam. The buoys show seas of 3 feet near the Marianas, with a water temperature of 86 degrees. Altimetry does show seas increasing to slightly over 4 feet the further out you go.

*Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/*

| MICRONESIA | ▲ ▼ °F | |
|---|---|---|
| Guam and Rota | Thunderstorms | 87° / 77° |
| Palau | Thunderstorms | 85° / 77° |
| Yap | Thunderstorms | 85° / 79° |
| Chuuk | Thunderstorms | 87° / 79° |
| Pohnpei | Thunderstorms | 85° / 75° |
| Kosrae | Thunderstorms | 86° / 78° |
| Majuro | Thunderstorms | 84° / 79° |

| AROUND THE GLOBE | ▲ ▼ °F | |
|---|---|---|
| Auckland | Light Rain/Wind | 61° / 49° |
| Beijing | Partly Cloudy | 61° / 43° |
| Hong Kong | Isolated Thunderstorms | 88° / 80° |
| Honolulu | Partly Cloudy | 86° / 74° |
| London | Light Rain | 64° / 47° |
| Los Angeles | Sunny | 84° / 65° |
| Manila | Scattered Thunderstorms | 91° / 77° |
| Melbourne | Partly Cloudy | 60° / 55° |
| Miami | Partly Cloudy | 83° / 74° |
| New York | Rain | 56° / 55° |
| Osaka | Showers | 71° / 61° |
| Paris | Mostly Sunny | 72° / 51° |
| Busan | Showers | 70° / 63° |
| Rome | Sunny | 79° / 58° |
| Salem | Mostly Sunny | 78° / 50° |
| San Francisco | Cloudy | 68° / 55° |
| Seoul | Light Rain | 66° / 54° |
| Tokyo | Rain | 76° / 58° |
| Washington, DC | Rain | 52° / 50° |

| DAY | SUNRISE | SUNSET |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 6:07 AM | 6:03 PM |
| Thursday | 6:07 AM | 6:03 PM |
| Friday | 6:07 AM | 6:02 PM |
| Saturday | 6:07 AM | 6:01 PM |
| Sunday | 6:07 AM | 6:00 PM |

| DAY | MOONRISE | MOONSET | MOONRISE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Today | - | 1:20 AM | 2:48 PM |
| Thursday | - | 2:23 AM | 3:37 PM |
| Friday | - | 3:24 AM | 4:22 PM |
| Saturday | - | 4:21 AM | 5:03 PM |
| Sunday | - | 5:16 AM | 5:42 PM |

| TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY | FEET | |
|---|---|---|
| 1:54 AM | High Tide | 1.60 |
| 9:41 AM | Low Tide | -0.13 |
| 5:18 PM | High Tide | 1.85 |
| 10:57 PM | Low Tide | 1.16 |

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

**CUSTOMER SERVICE** For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

**SUBSCRIPTION** Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

**ADVERTISING** For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

# FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2022

## DEPARTURES

### SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA117 | 9:50AM | 10:30AM | Daily |
| UA156 | 6:30PM | 7:15PM | 6 |

### GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| PR 111 | 6:00AM | 8:00AM | Daily |
| UA193 | 7:05PM | 10:55PM | 5 via Palau |
| UA183 | 7:10PM | 9:10PM | Daily |

### SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA117/183 | 9:50AM | 9:10PM | Daily via Guam |
| UA117/193 | 9:50AM | 10:55PM | 5 via Guam, Palau |

### SAIPAN-NARITA

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA824 | 7:00AM | 9:30AM | 1, 3, 5 |

### SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| TW308 | 3:30PM | 7:20PM | 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| 7C3405 | 3:30PM | 7:25PM | 6 |
| 7C3405 | 3:50PM | 7:45PM | 3, 4, 7 |
| OZ624 | 4:00PM | 7:40PM | 3, 6 |

### SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7C3451 | 3:00PM | 6:35PM | 3, 7 |
| BX621 | 3:10PM | 6:30PM | 3, 7 |

## ARRIVALS

### GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA174 | 8:00AM | 8:45AM | Daily |
| UA112 | 4:40PM | 5:30PM | 6 |

### MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| PR110 | 10:00PM | 4:00AM+1 | Daily |
| UA184 | 10:25PM | 4:25AM+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| UA192 | 10:25PM | 6:15AM+1 | 5 via Palau |
| UA184 | 11:50PM | 5:40AM+1 | 5 |

### MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA184/174 | 10:25PM | 8:45AM+1 | 1,2,3, 4, 6,7 via Guam |
| UA192/174 | 10:25PM | 8:45AM+1 | 5 via Palau, Guam |
| UA184/174 | 11:50PM | 8:45AM+1 | 5 via Guam |

### NARITA-SAIPAN

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA825 | 9:25PM | 2:00 AM+1 | 2, 4, 7 |

### INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7C3406 | 8:30AM | 2:10PM | 6 |
| 7C3406 | 8:50AM | 2:30PM | 4 |
| 7C3406 | 8:50AM | 2:50PM | 3, 7 |
| OZ623 | 9:00AM | 2:30PM | 3, 6 |
| TW307 | 9:00AM | 2:30PM | 4, 6, 7 |
| TW307 | 9:15AM | 2:30PM | 3 |

### BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| BX622 | 8:00AM | 1:10PM | 3, 7 |
| 7C3452 | 9:00AM | 2:00PM | 3, 7 |

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

# MARIANAS SOUTHERN AIRWAYS

INITIAL DAILY FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2022

### SAIPAN TO TINIAN

| DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|
| 7:00 A.M. | 7:15 A.M. | (Except Sundays) |
| 9:50 A.M. | 10:05 A.M. | |
| 4:00 P.M. | 4:15 P.M. | (Except Saturdays) |

### TINIAN TO SAIPAN

| DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|
| 7:35 A.M. | 7:50 A.M. | (Except Sundays) |
| 10:25 A.M. | 10:40 A.M. | |
| 4:35 P.M. | 4:50 P.M. | (Except Saturdays) |

### SAIPAN TO ROTA

| DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|
| 8:10 A.M. | 8:40 A.M. | |
| 1:45 P.M. | 2:15 P.M. | |

### ROTA TO SAIPAN

| DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|
| 9:00 A.M. | 9:30 A.M. | |
| 2:35 P.M. | 3:05 P.M. | |

### SAIPAN TO GUAM

| DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|
| 11:10 A.M. | 12:00 P.M. | |
| 5:15 P.M. | 6:05 P.M. | |

### GUAM TO SAIPAN

| DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|
| 12:30 P.M. | 1:20 P.M. | |
| 6:40 P.M. | 7:30 P.M. | |

# STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

### SAIPAN TO ROTA

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1301 | 8:30 | 9:00 | Daily |
| 1302 | 11:00 | 11:30 | Mon/Wed/Fri |
| 1302 | 12:00 | 12:30 | Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun |
| 1303 | 15:30 | 16:00 | Daily |

### ROTA TO SAIPAN

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3101 | 9:30 | 10:00 | Daily |
| 3102 | 13:00 | 13:30 | Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun |
| 3102 | 14:00 | 14:30 | Mon/Wed/Fri |
| 3103 | 16:30 | 17:00 | Daily |

### ROTA TO GUAM

| LIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3401 | 12:00 | 12:30 | Mon/Wed/Fri |

### GUAM TO ROTA

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4301 | 13:00 | 13:30 | Mon/Wed/Fri |

### SAIPAN TO TINIAN

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1202 | 8:00 | 8:15 | Daily |
| 1203 | 9:00 | 9:15 | Daily |
| 1204 | 10:00 | 10:15 | Daily |
| 1208 | 14:00 | 14:15 | Daily |
| 1209 | 15:00 | 15:15 | Daily |
| 1210 | 16:00 | 16:15 | Daily |
| 1211 | 17:00 | 17:15 | Daily |

### TINIAN TO SAIPAN

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2102 | 8:30 | 8:45 | Daily |
| 2103 | 9:30 | 9:45 | Daily |
| 2104 | 10:30 | 10:45 | Daily |
| 2108 | 14:30 | 14:45 | Daily |
| 2109 | 15:30 | 15:45 | Daily |
| 2110 | 16:30 | 16:45 | Daily |
| 2111 | 17:30 | 17:45 | Daily |

# Business

# CDC drops traveler health notices for individual countries

AP
Travelers pass a sign near a COVID-19 testing site in Terminal E at Logan Airport, on Dec. 21, 2021, in Boston.

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—The federal government is scrapping another of its responses to the pandemic.

On Monday, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention dropped its country-by-country COVID-19 travel health notices that it began issuing early in the pandemic.

The reason: Fewer countries are testing for the virus or reporting the number of COVID-19 cases. That limits the CDC's ability to calculate travelers' risk, according to the agency.

CDC spokeswoman Kristen Nordlund said the agency will only post a travel health notice for an individual country if a situation such as a troubling new variant of the virus changes CDC travel recommendations for that country.

The CDC still recommends that travelers remain up to date on vaccines and follow recommendations found on its international travel page.

That page divides countries into three categories – practice usual precautions, enhanced precautions or avoid nonessential travel.

Restrictions such as testing and quarantine requirements greatly slowed international travel earlier in the pandemic, but many countries eventually lifted those rules for fully vaccinated and boosted people to increase tourism.

In early 2020, before vaccines were available, the United States barred people who had recently been in any of more than three dozen countries. In 2021, the U.S. instead began requiring people to test negative for COVID-19 shortly before boarding planes to the U.S. That rule too was eventually dropped.

## Kim Kardashian fined $1 million by SEC over crypto promotion

Kardashian

The long list of celebrities promoting cryptocurrencies just got shorter. Kim Kardashian is being barred from doing so for three years—and will pay a $1 million fine -- to settle federal charges that she recommended a crypto security to her 330 million Instagram followers without making clear that she was paid to do so.

The reality TV star also must give up the $250,000 she was paid for the Instagram post about Ethereum Max tokens, plus interest, according to a Securities and Exchange Commission settlement announced Monday.

Kardashian is the latest celebrity to get ensnared in regulations that require full disclosure by people getting paid to promote financial products.

In 2020, actor Steven Seagal agreed to pay more than $300,000 as part of a similar settlement with the SEC, which also banned him from promoting investments for three years.

In 2018, the SEC settled charges against professional boxer Floyd Mayweather Jr. and music producer DJ Khaled for failing to disclose payments they received for promoting investments in a digital currency.

Many celebrities and athletes regularly promote crypto through advertisements on TV and online in ways that do not violate any law. Matt Damon, Tom Brady, Reese Witherspoon and Gwyneth Paltrow are among those who have used their fame to spread enthusiasm for cryptocurrencies.

SEC Chair Gary Gensler said in a statement that the Kardashian settlement "serves as a reminder to celebrities and others that the law requires them to disclose to the public when and how much they are paid to promote investing in securities."

Gensler also used Monday's attention-grabbing settlement with a celebrity as an opportunity to educate the public, releasing a humorous YouTube video that warns about the potential pitfalls of investment advice doled out by the rich and famous.

"Bravo to SEC Chairman Gensler, whose action shows that no celebrity, regardless of how big or famous, that profited from pushing these risky cryptocurrency investments should be able to simply walk away," said Adam Moskowitz, a class-action attorney currently suing Mark Cuban for promoting the company Voyager Digital before it failed.

The SEC said Kardashian agreed to cooperate with an ongoing investigation, though it didn't provide any details on that investigation.

A lawyer for Kardashian, Patrick Gibbs, said she "fully cooperated with the SEC from the very beginning and she remains willing to do whatever she can to assist the SEC in this matter."

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### Top US regulators say crypto poses financial stability risks

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Top regulators on Monday recommended a series of new safeguards to ensure that a growing and unregulated cryptocurrency market doesn't imperil U.S. financial stability. Among seven major recommendations, regulators called on Congress to pass legislation that would address the systemic risks caused by the growth of stablecoins, which are a form of cryptocurrency pegged to the price of another financial asset, like the U.S. dollar or gold. Recent volatility in the cryptocurrency market, especially in stablecoins, has made regulators particularly wary about the need for regulation as usage of the digital asset continues to grow. Members of the Financial Stability Oversight Council met Monday to approve the recommendations of a 125-page report created in response to President Joe Biden's March executive order on digital assets. The report also calls for giving agencies greater regulatory power over cryptocurrencies and digital assets.

### Buffett's successor buys nearly $70M of Berkshire stock

**OMAHA, Neb.** (AP)—Billionaire Warren Buffett's successor bought nearly $70 million worth of stock in the conglomerate he is slated to one day lead. Berkshire Hathaway Vice Chairman Greg Abel on Monday disclosed buying 168 Class A shares in the company in a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The purchases made last Thursday at prices between $405,800 and $408,514.01 per share will give Abel a small stake of 173 Class A shares in the Omaha, Nebraska-based company's future. His holdings pale in comparison to Buffett's Berkshire investment. The legendary investor, who has been Berkshire's Chairman and CEO for decades, holds 229,016 A shares and 276 B shares to give him control of more than 30% of Berkshire's voting stock. He has been gradually giving his shares away to five foundations, with most of his donations going to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

### Australian central bank lifts cash rate to 9-year high 2.6%

**CANBERRA, Australia** (AP)—Australia's central bank on Tuesday boosted its benchmark interest rate for a sixth consecutive month to a nine-year high of 2.6%.The Reserve Bank of Australia's increase of a quarter percentage point to the cash rate was smaller than those at recent monthly meetings. The banks had hiked the rate by half a percentage point at the last four meetings. Most economists had expected another 0.5% rise. When the bank lifted the rate by a quarter percentage point at its board meeting in May, it was the first rate hike in more than 11 years. It's now at its highest point since August 2013, when the bank cut the rate from 2.75% to 2.5%.

### UK scraps tax cut for wealthy that sparked market turmoil

**BIRMINGHAM, England** (AP)—The U.K. government on Monday dropped plans to cut income tax for top earners, part of a package of unfunded cuts unveiled only days ago that sparked turmoil on financial markets and sent the pound to record lows. In a dramatic about-face, Treasury chief Kwasi Kwarteng abandoned plans to scrap the top 45% rate of income tax paid on earnings above 150,000 pounds ($167,000) a year, a policy that had drawn near-universal opposition. The pound rose after the government U-turn, trading at $1.13—just over the value it held before the government's calamitous budget announcement on Sept. 23. But Kwarteng said the government would push ahead with the rest of its tax-cutting stimulus package—though further changes of plan may be looming. The Financial Times reported that the government would bring forward a planned full fiscal statement from Nov. 23 to later this month.

## $500M-plus from opioid deal starts heading to Washington

**SEATTLE** (AP)—The first payments from a $518 million settlement with the nation's three largest opioid distributors will begin reaching Washington communities in December, providing much-needed cash officials can use to hire first responders or direct toward prevention, treatment and other services, Attorney General Bob Ferguson said Monday.

"These significant resources will help Washington fight back against the opioid epidemic that continues to rip holes through the very fabric of our communities and of families, overwhelm our public health resources, and inundate our foster care system with young, innocent victims," Ferguson told a news conference in Seattle.

Ferguson, a Democrat, rejected a national settlement with the distributors—McKesson Corp., Cardinal Health Inc. and AmerisourceBergen Corp.—as well as Johnson & Johnson that nearly every other state has accepted. Under that deal, the states will receive nearly $20 billion over 18 years.

Instead, Washington spent six months in a complex trial against the companies before reaching its own settlement in May, one that's worth $46 million more than the state would have received under the national deal. Washington is also pursuing a separate lawsuit against Johnson & Johnson, which is expected to go to trial next year.

Over the last two decades, the deaths of more than 500,000 Americans have been linked to overdoses of opioids, including both prescription pain kills and illicit drugs such as heroin. Deaths have recently skyrocketed from the spread of illegally produced fentanyl.

# Nation

## In Ian's wake, Florida residents brave a slow wait for power

**BONITA SPRINGS, Fla.** (AP)—Nearly a week after Hurricane Ian smashed into Florida and carved a path of destruction that reached into the Carolinas, more than half a million statewide residents faced another day without electricity Tuesday as rescuers continued their search for those trapped inside homes inundated with lingering floodwaters.

At least 78 people have been confirmed dead from the storm: 71 in Florida, four in North Carolina and three in Cuba since Ian made landfall on the Caribbean island on Sept. 27, and in Florida a day later.

Search and rescue efforts were still ongoing in Florida, where more than 1,600 people have been rescued statewide.

But for many Florida residents, power restoration has become job one.

In the town of Naples, Kelly Sedgwick was just seeing news images Monday of the devastation Ian had caused, thanks to power that was restored four days after the hurricane slammed into her southwestern Florida community. Meanwhile, in the nearby town of Bonita Springs, Catalina Mejilla was still using a borrowed generator to try to keep her kids and their grandfather cool as they waited for their power to be returned.

Beachgoers walk past a collapsed pool deck Monday, Oct. 3, 2022, in Daytona Beach Shores, Fla., as hotel and condo seawalls and decks along the Volusia County coastline were gutted by Hurricane Ian last week. AP

Ian knocked out power to 2.6 million customers across Florida when it roared ashore with 150-mph (241-kph) winds and pushing a powerful storm surge.

Since then, crews have been feverishly working to restore electricity infrastructure. State officials said they expect power to be restored by Sunday to customers whose power lines and other electric infrastructure is still intact.

About 520,000 homes and businesses in Florida were still without electricity Monday evening—an amount nearly equivalent to all the customers in Rhode Island.

For those who were getting power restored, it was a blessing. Sedgwick said she was "relieved" to have her power back and praised the crews for their hard work: "They've done a remarkable job."

But for those who were still waiting, it was a difficult slog.

"The heat is unbearable," Mejilla said. "When there's no power ... we can't make food, we don't have gas." Her mother has trouble breathing and had to go to a friend's house who had electricity. "I think they should give power to the people who are most in need."

Eric Silagy, Chairman and CEO of Florida Power & Light—the largest power provider in the state—said he understands the frustrations and said crews are working as hard as they can to restore power as soon as possible. The utility expects to have power restored to 95% of its service areas by the end of the day Friday, he said.

A utility spokesperson said the remaining 5% comprises mostly cases where there's a special situation making it difficult to restore power, such as the home being so damaged it can't receive power or the area still being flooded. Those outages do not include customers whose homes or businesses were destroyed.

## US warns about foreign efforts to sway American voters

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Federal officials are warning ahead of the November midterms that Russia is working to amplify doubts about the integrity of U.S. elections while China is interested in undermining American politicians it sees as threats to Beijing's interests.

An unclassified intelligence advisory, newly obtained by The Associated Press, says China is probably seeking to influence select races to "hinder candidates perceived to be particularly adversarial to Beijing." In the advisory, sent to state and local officials in mid-September, intelligence officials said they believe Beijing sees a lower risk in meddling in the midterms versus a presidential election.

While officials said they've not identified any credible threats to election infrastructure in the U.S., the latest intelligence warning comes amid the peak of a midterm campaign in which a rising number of candidates and voters openly express a lack of confidence in the nation's democratic processes.

Foreign countries have long sought to sway public opinion in America, perhaps most notably in a covert Russian campaign that used social media to sow discord on hot-button social issues ahead of the 2016 presidential election. The U.S. government has been on high alert since, warning about efforts by Russia, China and Iran to meddle in American politics and shape how voters think.

The U.S. faces foreign influence campaigns while still dealing with growing threats to election workers domestically and the systematic spread of falsehoods and disinformation about voter fraud. Former President Donald Trump and many of his supporters—including candidates running to oversee elections in several states—continue to lie about the 2020 presidential election even as no evidence has emerged of significant voter fraud.

## Police: 5 California killings may be work of serial killer

**STOCKTON, Calif.** (AP)—A serial killer may have ambushed five men in central California separately in recent months, shooting them to death alone in the dark, and police are baffled as to why the victims were targeted.

None of the men were robbed or beaten before their killings—which all took place within a radius of a few square miles—and none appear to have known each other, Stockton Police Officer Joseph Silva said Monday. The shootings also do not seem to be related to gangs or drugs.

The city of Stockton, Stockton Crime Stoppers and a local construction company owner offered a total of $95,000 for information leading to an arrest in the slayings, which date back to July 8.

Police released a grainy still image of a "person of interest," dressed all in black and wearing a black cap, who appeared in videos from several of the crime scenes.

The San Joaquin County's Office of the Medical Examiner identified the victims on Monday as Paul Yaw, 35, who was killed on July 8; Salvador Debudey Jr., 43, who died on Aug. 11; Jonathan Hernandez Rodriguez, 21, who died on Aug. 30; Juan Cruz, 52, who was killed on Sept. 21 and Lawrence Lopez Sr., 54.

Lopez was shot shortly before 2 a.m. last Tuesday in a residential area just north of downtown.

He "was just a person who was out here at the wrong place, at the wrong time, at the wrong circumstance," his brother, Jerry Lopez, told KXTV-TV. "It's hard to process that this has happened."

None of the shootings were captured by video cameras and no firearms have been recovered.

"We don't have any video of anybody holding any gun or actually committing a crime," Silva said in a phone interview Monday.

Still, the available footage, as well as ballistics evidence, link the five killings, he said. All five men were shot by a handgun, though it's not yet clear if it was the same gun was used in each crime.

"It definitely meets the definition of a serial killer," Silva said. "What makes this different is the shooter is just looking for an opportunity and unfortunately our victims were alone in a dark area."

There may even be multiple people involved in the violence.

"To be honest, we just don't know," he said. "This person or people who are out doing this, they are definitely very bold and brazen."

## ACROSS THE NATION

### Trump files $475 million defamation lawsuit against CNN

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Former President Donald Trump on Monday sued CNN, seeking $475 million in damages, saying the network had defamed him in an effort to short-circuit any future political campaign. The lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, focuses primarily on the term "The Big Lie" about Trump's false claims of widespread fraud that he says cost him the 2020 presidential election to Joe Biden. CNN said it had no comment on the lawsuit. Trump repeatedly attacked CNN as president, which resonated with his conservative followers. He has similarly filed lawsuits against big tech companies with little success. His case against Twitter for knocking him off its platform following the Jan. 6, 2021, U.S. Capitol insurrection was thrown out by a California judge earlier this year.

### Supreme Court takes up key voting rights case from Alabama

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—The Supreme Court is taking up an Alabama redistricting case that could have far-reaching effects on minority voting power across the United States. The justices are hearing arguments Tuesday in the latest high-court showdown over the federal Voting Rights Act, lawsuits seeking to force Alabama to create a second Black majority congressional district. About 27% of Alabamians are Black, but they form a majority in just one of the state's seven congressional districts. The court's conservatives, in a 5-4 vote in February, blocked a lower court ruling that would have required a second Black majority district in time for the 2022 midterm elections.

### Navy admiral to seek community input on Red Hill fuel tanks

**JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii** (AP)—The commander of the task force responsible for draining fuel from a World War II-era storage tank facility that leaked jet fuel and poisoned Pearl Harbor's tap water last year said Monday he's exploring ways to get community feedback. Rear Adm. John Wade told reporters at a news conference he may establish an advisory group, but he's not sure yet what form it will take. He said getting input from the community will help him be more responsive. He said Hawaii's elected officials told military leaders that it would be valuable for them to give the community a voice in their work. "I don't have the structure yet. It's still a work in progress, but I think it's something that's important," said Wade, the commander of Joint Task Force Red Hill.

# Asia

## Critics: Marcos' trip to watch Singapore F1 races is callous

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—A trip by Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to Singapore over the weekend to watch Formula One races has come under attack from critics who described it as "utterly callous" while thousands of Filipinos remain displaced due to a recent typhoon.

Marcos Jr. confirmed his trip to Singapore for the Grand Prix event in a brief statement and pictures he posted on Facebook on Monday night after a flurry of online criticism.

"They say that playing golf is the best way to drum up business, but I say it's Formula 1," Marcos Jr. said. "What a productive weekend."

He said without elaborating that he was invited with other dignitaries and met new business friends who were willing to invest in the Philippines, and added he would disclose more details later.

Marcos

Over the weekend, reports circulated on social media about Marcos Jr.'s unannounced trip to Singapore. Marcos Jr.'s press secretary did not issue a confirmation until after a Singaporean official posted pictures of Marcos Jr. in the city-state on Facebook.

Singaporean Minister for Manpower Tan See Leng named Marcos Jr. among the foreign dignitaries he had met "to affirm our bilateral economic relationships and strengthen collaborations in energy cooperation as well as exchange views on manpower policies on the sidelines of the race."

Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong also posted pictures on Facebook showing him with others including Marcos Jr. and his wife, Liza Araneta-Marcos. "Happy to link up again with friends from both here and abroad, to watch the race and enjoy the good company," the caption read.

## North Korea sends missile soaring over Japan

**SEOUL, South Korea** (AP)—North Korea on Tuesday fired a ballistic missile over Japan for the first time in five years, forcing Japan to issue evacuation notices and suspend trains during the flight of the nuclear-capable weapon that could reach the U.S. territory of Guam and beyond.

A TV screen showing a news program reporting about North Korea's missile launch, is seen at the Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea, Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2022. AP

The launch was the most provocative weapons demonstration by North Korea this year as it ramps up missile tests in its push to build a full-fledged nuclear arsenal that viably threatens U.S. allies and the American homeland and earns the country recognition as a nuclear state.

The United States said it strongly condemns North Korea's "dangerous and reckless decision" to launch what it described as a "long-range ballistic missile" over Japan.

"This action is destabilizing and shows (North Korea's) blatant disregard for United Nations Security Council resolutions and international safety norms," it said.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### American man missing after falling from raft in Bali river

**DENPASAR, Indonesia** (AP)—A search resumed Tuesday for an American man who fell into a fast-flowing river while whitewater rafting on Indonesia's tourist island of Bali. Robinaugh Clifford Neil, 63, was among a group of 10 foreign tourists floating on two rafts on the Ayung River when they encountered trouble Monday in hilly terrain in the Ubud district of Bali. The water level suddenly increased, triggering a strong current that caused one of the rafts to flip over, local police chief Gusti Ngurah Yudistira said. The five tourists from it tried to reach the second raft, causing it to overturn, too, sending all 10 tourists into the raging waters, Yudistira said.

#### Indonesia police chief, others removed over soccer disaster

**MALANG, Indonesia** (AP)—An Indonesian police chief and nine elite officers were removed from their posts Monday and 18 others were being investigated for responsibility in the firing of tear gas inside a soccer stadium that set off a stampede, killing at least 125 people, officials said. Distraught family members were struggling to comprehend the loss of their loved ones, including 17 children, at the match in East Java's Malang city that was attended only by hometown Arema FC fans. The organizer had banned supporters of the visiting team, Persebaya Surabaya, because of Indonesia's history of violent soccer rivalries. The disaster Saturday night was among the deadliest ever at a sporting event.

# World

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### Ukraine claws back more territory Russia is trying to absorb

**KYIV, Ukraine** (AP)—Ukrainian forces scored more gains in their counteroffensive across at least two fronts Monday, advancing in the very areas that Russia is trying to absorb and challenging Moscow's effort to engage fresh troops and its threats to defend incorporated areas by all means. In their latest breakthrough, Ukrainian forces penetrated Moscow's defenses in the strategic southern Kherson region, one of the four areas in Ukraine that Russia is in the process of annexing. Kyiv's troops also consolidated gains in the east and other major battlefields, re-establishing Ukrainian control just as Russian President Vladimir Putin is trying to overcome problems with manpower, weapons, troop morale and logistics, along with intensifying domestic and international criticism. Putin faces disarray and anger domestically about his partial troop mobilization and confusion about the establishment of new Russian borders.

#### Al-Shabab attack kills 20, wounds 36 in town in Somalia

**MOGADISHU, Somalia** (AP)—Islamic extremist fighters on Monday targeted the local Somali government headquarters in the Hiran region, leaving 20 people dead and 36 wounded in a town at the center of a recent mobilization against the extremists, officials and witnesses said. The Somalia-based al-Shabab claimed responsibility for the attack in Beledweyne, a town more than 300 kilometers (186 miles) north of Somalia's capital, Mogadishu. Somalia's government earlier Monday announced that it and international partners had killed a top al-Shabab leader, Abdullahi Nadir, over the weekend. The U.S. military said it conducted an airstrike on Saturday in southwest Somalia but didn't name the al-Shabab leader killed. The Hiran governor, Ali Jayte Osman, who survived Monday's attack, told The Associated Press that the health minister of Hirshabelle state and the deputy governor of Hiran in charge of finance were among those killed in Monday's attack. At least 36 others were hurt.


IN LOVING MEMORY OF

†Veronica Esther Taitano Kapileo

*Lovingly known as "Noning"*
*Born to life on APRIL 16, 1962*
*called to Eternal life on SEPTEMBER 28, 2022*

**In her new Life, Noning will be met at the gates of Heaven by her:**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Husband:** | Canice Quitugua Kapileo |
| **Daughter:** | Cypriana Faustina Taitano Kapileo |
| **Parents:** | Rita Sablan and Augustine Igitol Taitano |
| **Maternal Grandparents:** | Josepha Borja Tudela and Oswald Camacho |
| **Paternal Grandparents:** | Maria Igitol and Jose Esteves Taitano |
| **Parents-in-law:** | Faustina Quitugua and Felipe Misuk Kapileo |
| **Siblings/In-Laws:** | Peter Oliver S. Taitano, Julita T. Palacios, Venicia T. Suel, Juan Q. Kapileo, Antonio Q. Kapileo, Julita S. Kapileo, Singeru Techur |
| **Nephews & Nieces:** | Maria Teresa Risa Taitano, Singeru Techur, Jr., Leonisa Techur, Peter Techur, Dean Anthony Q. Kapileo, Julia S. Kapileo, Jay Eric S. Kapileo, Robin Christopher Q. Kapileo |
| **Grand Nephew & Nieces:** | Kirsten Tenseley T. Techur, Alandadonn K. Malwelbug, Kristina Edwina K. Malwelbug, Tiana K. Malwelbug, Angel A. Kapileo |
| **Maternal Aunts & Uncle:** | Remedio Sablan & Antonio B. Camacho, Consolacion T. Sablan |
| **Paternal Aunts & Uncles:** | Teresa Igitol Taitano, Joaquin Igitol Taitano, Escolastica I. Taitano-Iguel, Ursula I. Lifoifoi-Aldan, and Willard Ngotel |

**Her loving memories will forever live in the hearts of her:**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Children:** | **Kevin Lee Taitano** & Jocelyn A. Kapileo (Zoshanny D'AnaLeigh, Ri'Onica Ikepela), **Josephine Christine Taitano Kapileo** & Danny Joe O. Fitial (Autumn Renea), **Nunu Kuke Taitano Kapileo** |
| **Godchildren:** | Valerie K. Malwelbug, Trisha R. Taitano, Jaime Q. Reyes, John Joseph P. San Nicolas, Isidro, Jr. A. Taisacan, Kenneth C. Crisostimo, John Diego T. Palacios, Elizabeth C. Tito |
| **Brother, Sisters & In-Laws:** | Nisim & Diego Palacios, Maryann T. & Juan Mendiola, Elaine T. & Henry Iguel, Emilly N. & Joseph S. Taitano, Patricia A. & Daniel R. Suel |
| **Brothers & Sisters-in-Law:** | Dionicia K. Techur, Pauline DLG. & Luis Q. Kapileo, Jacinta Q. Kapileo, Anna Q. Kapileo, Ignacia K. & Ferdous Bhuiyan, Esther K. & Felipe Q. Kapileo, Jesus Q. Kapileo, Teresa P. & Joseph Q. Kapileo, Ursula A. & Fabian Nick Q. Kapileo |

**Numerous nephews, nieces, cousins, aunts, uncles, friends will miss her dearly...**

Mass is being offered nightly at 6:00 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 9:30 a.m. on Sunday at the Bithen Delos Remedios Church in Tanapag.

On Friday, October 7, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. she will be escorted from the Commonwealth Health Center Chapel to the Bithen Delos Remedios Church. Viewing will begin immediately after the Responso at 9 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 12:00 p.m. and then our beloved Noning will be laid to rest at the Tanapag Public Cemetery.

**Your thoughts, prayers, words of comfort and presence are sincerely appreciated.**
Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Ghilisou, and Thank you.

*The Family*

Good Housekeeping

# Tips to bring light to dark spaces

HANDOUT/TNS
A bright, cheery recreational room is created in a basement with few windows.

HANDOUT/TNS
A lower level is made brighter through a creative placement of multiple mirrors.

SCOTT GABRIEL MORRIS/TNS
A below grade space is lightened through the use of transparent surfaces and light fabrics and textiles.

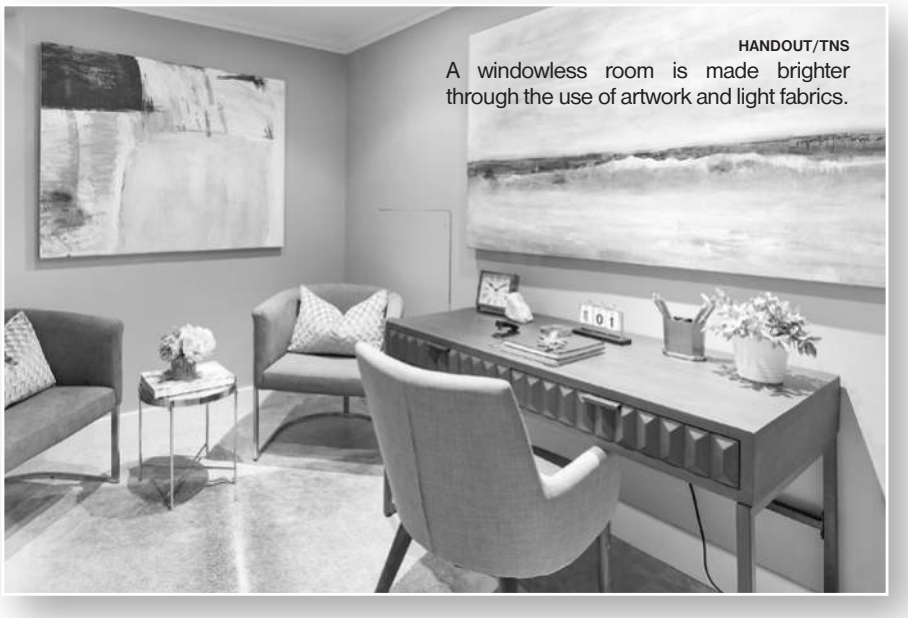
By CATHY HOBBS
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

No windows, few windows or little to no overhead lighting? These issues can make a room or space feel overly dark. They are especially enhanced in small rooms or spaces that traditionally lack an abundance of light, such as basements or lower levels.

What are some ways to overcome the issue of a lack of light? Here are some top tips to help bring a sense of brightness and light into dark spaces.

1. Paint walls a light color. Light colors will help reflect light.
2. Use mirrors. Mirrors, especially hung in a series or grid, will go a long way in creating light and the illusion of more windows in a space.
3. Incorporate interior windows in rooms that don't have a window to the outside.
4. Consider installing a glass door to a room or space that doesn't get much light.
5. Choose light colored fabrics, finishes and textiles.
6. Opt for glass or transparent surfaces, as this will help make a space feel lighter and less heavy.
7. Choose bright, cheery colors that can help mimic sunshine such as yellow, red and orange.
8. Incorporate artwork to bring light colored elements into a space.
9. Install overhead recessed lighting if possible.
10. Go minimal. A room full of furniture will feel even smaller and darker than one in which less is more.

HANDOUT/TNS
Interior windows help add light to a space with few outdoor windows.



HANDOUT/TNS
A windowless room is made brighter through the use of artwork and light fabrics.

# Life & Style

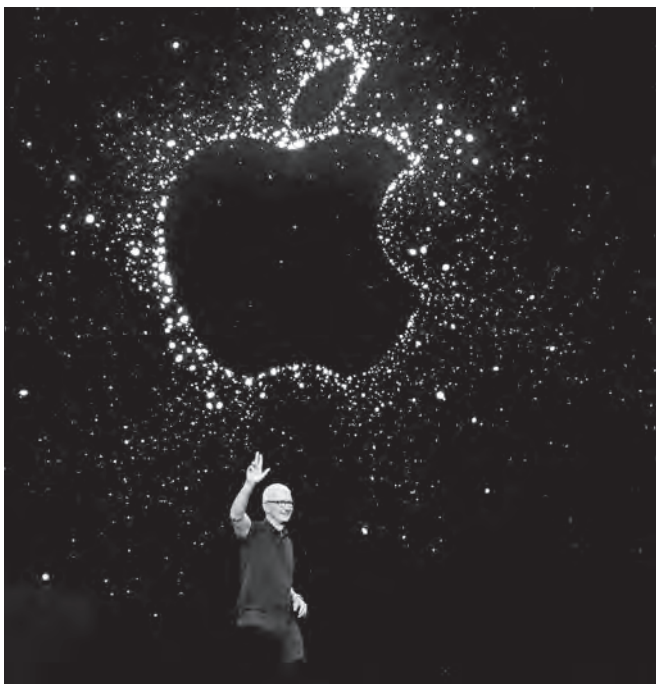
## Whole lotta zeros: Apple Music crosses 100M song barrier

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Apple Music is about to cross a huge milestone, offering its eye-and-ear-popping 100 millionth song on the streaming service.

The music giant tells The Associated Press that internal data indicates Apple Music will reach the heady mark on Monday. Every day, 20,000 singers and songwriters release music on the service.

"It's a huge, huge number," Rachel Newman, Apple's global head of editorial and content, told the AP. "It really is possible to create music and record it and release it more than ever before in the history of music, which we think is pretty incredible."

Apple Music says the milestone cements it as the world's largest catalog of music, more than YouTube Music's 80 million songs, Spotify's 82 million tracks and podcasts, and Amazon Music's 90 million songs.



AP

Apple CEO Tim Cook speaks at an Apple event on the campus of Apple's headquarters in Cupertino, Calif., on Sept. 7, 2022.

While the actual song that brings Apple Music across the threshold won't be known, there's a good chance it will not originate from the U.S. or even be in English as the service sees more and more music arrive from all over the world.

When iTunes was launched, the service had music in 200 languages and dialects, with half of the content in English. Now, 40% of Apple Music's offerings are in English and the number of languages and dialects are up to 350. The platform's top charts—once the domain of the U.S., U.K, Canada and Australia—are now populated by tunes from Japan, Colombia, Ghana, Nigeria and South Korea.

The milestone has been fast approaching as the globe gets more digitalized. The number of Apple Music songs has doubled in the last four years, from 50 million in 2018, with the pandemic believed to have accelerated the timetable as people in isolation looked for creative outlets.

## Met Opera starts streaming of live performances to homes

**NEW YORK** (AP)—The Metropolitan Opera is expanding its live telecasts to direct-to-home streaming in areas that don't have movie theater transmissions, among them Brazil and Italy.

The Met launched its high-definition telecasts to movie theaters in December 2006 and plans 10 broadcasts per season.

The company said Monday that operas will be available for streams in 171 countries and territories beyond the 50 who have had movie-theater access. The cost will be $10-$20 per opera, which will be available for replays in a seven-day window. English, Spanish and French subtitles will be available for the streams.

About 2,000 movie theaters currently show the telecasts, and broadcasts will be available in the U.S. and Canada through location services and geo-fencing software to areas not near the movie transmissions.

## Ringo Starr cancels Canadian shows after catching COVID-19

**LONDON** (AP)—Ringo Starr has cancelled shows in North America after the former Beatles drummer tested positive for COVID-19.

The 82-year-old cancelled performances Sunday at the Four Winds Casino in New Buffalo, Michigan, and Mystic Lake Casino in Prior Lake, Minnesota, citing illness.

On Monday a spokesperson confirmed that Starr and his All-Starr band would be cancelling five more shows after the former Beatle caught coronavirus.

The five Canadian shows cancelled included Winnipeg, Manitoba; Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; Lethbridge in Alberta; as well as arenas in Abbotsford and Penticton in British Columbia.

The rest of his tour will remain on hold while Starr recovers.

"Ringo hopes to resume as soon as possible and is recovering at home," a statement said. "As always, he and the All Starrs send peace and love to their fans, and hope to see them back out on the road soon."

## Andrew Lloyd Webber to transfer his 'Cinderella' to Broadway

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Andrew Lloyd Webber is saying goodbye to his last remaining show on Broadway and welcoming another.

The musical theater icon announced Monday that his retooled version of "Cinderella" will land in New York at the Imperial Theatre in February with new songs, a new leading lady and a new title.

"Bad Cinderella"—borrowing the title from a key song in the show rather than using London West End's blander name "Cinderella"—will star Linedy Genao in the title role. She's had ensemble roles in "Dear Evan Hansen" and "On Your Feet!" Carrie Hope Fletcher played the title character in London.

Lloyd Webber hopes his fairy tale has a better ending on Broadway than it did in London, where "Cinderella" closed less than a year after opening and suffered heavy losses, particularly when COVID-19 scrambled its run.

The composer at a press conference outside the theater noted that the show will officially open—and the reviews will be posted—on March 23, a day after his 75th birthday. "It'll be a treat to see what kind of birthday present I get," he said.

Genao then used a cannister of spray paint to spray the word "Bad" over the show's original logo. "I have one thing to tell you," she said. "I'm not your Cinderella. I'm your bad Cinderella."

The stage musical features a brand new score from Lloyd Webber with a book by Emerald Fennell and lyrics by David Zippel. JoAnn M. Hunter choreographs with direction by Laurence Connor.

## Will Smith's 'Emancipation' gets release date, post-slap

**NEW YORK** (AP)—After holding "Emancipation" in limbo following Will Smith's slap of Chris Rock at the Academy Awards in March, Apple will release the actor's next big project this December.

Smith

In the fallout of Smith's smack of the comedian, the fate of "Emancipation"—a $120 million runaway slave thriller directed by Antoine Fuqua—had been uncertain. One of Apple's most high-profile productions yet, the film had once been expected to be an Oscar contender this year. But an awards-season rollout of a film headlined by Smith, whom the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences banned from attending the Oscars for 10 years, has obvious complications.

Nevertheless, Apple TV+ said Monday that it will debut "Emancipation" on Dec. 2 in theaters and begin streaming it Dec. 9.

Over the weekend, Apple and the NAACP held the first screening of the film in Washington as part of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Legislative Conference. Smith attended the screening and spoke on stage.

## Niece keeps secret life hidden from her mother

**DEAR ABBY:** My niece, "Amanda," is 19 and fairly close with my daughter "Hayley," who is 18. Since graduating from high school and through her first year away at college, Amanda has been going out of town to meet men she meets online. Amanda shares her location with Hayley through Snapchat "in case something happens." My niece is doing this without letting anyone (other than Hayley) know and often uses my daughter as a cover to her parents.

These aren't just dinner dates, but usually weekends away from home. Hayley always tells me when Amanda is away. We are both concerned about her behavior, as human trafficking is very real. I have tried talking to Amanda about it, but she insists she's safe and knows what she is doing. My question is, should I tell my sister (her mom) or not? They don't really get along, and this will surely make things worse.

**AFRAID FOR HER IN IDAHO**

**DEAR AFRAID: Amanda is playing with fire. If your daughter were walking on a ledge 20 stories above the sidewalk, thinking "she knows what she's doing," wouldn't you want to be notified? Her father should be tipped off as well if he's in the picture. Someone needs to get through to that girl, who seems determined to put herself in harm's way.**

■■■■

**DEAR ABBY:** I am a 60-year-old female. Over the past 10 years, people have increasingly been calling me "Sir" in public. I hate it. I go to the salon to get my hair and brows done and wear feminine attire and shoes. I usually carry a purse, but not always. I have an athletic build, and I do wear T-shirts often (I taught physical education for 30 years). My response is, "My name is 'Susan.'"

Do you have any other suggestions? It's making me crazy. This has been going on too long. Today when it happened, I had been ready to make a purchase, but instead walked out of a furniture store because I was so offended. Their loss.

**ALL WOMAN IN THE SOUTH**

**DEAR ALL WOMAN: You are handling these comments as adeptly as possible. The person who addresses you as the wrong gender should be rightly embarrassed when you respond that your name is Susan. Leaving a store rather than making an expensive purchase was also the right thing to do. You should not have to change your appearance if you don't wish to. You know who you are. Try handling the comments with humor and see if that works better.**

■■■■

**DEAR ABBY:** My aging father lives hundreds of miles away from me. I try to call him every day, but it feels like my calls are not welcome. I am the only person he has contact with other than his caregivers. Should I keep trying or give up?

**DISCOURAGED DAUGHTER IN CALIFORNIA**

**DEAR DAUGHTER: Do not give up. Is this normal behavior on your father's part? If it isn't, he should be examined by his doctor to ensure he hasn't had a stroke or gone into a cognitive decline. It's very important you know his health status as well as whether there have been other changes in his life that would account for his behavior. Pay him a visit, if that's possible. I cannot stress this too strongly.**

■■■■

*Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)*

## DEAR ABBY

**By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**

*UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE*

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

# Pastimes

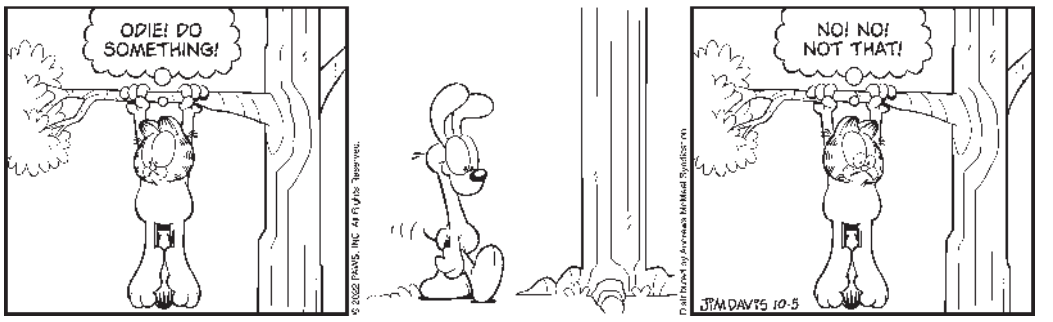
## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

I WISH I HAD A BABY BROTHER.
YOU WANT A NEW FRIEND TO PLAY WITH?
NO, I WANT SOMEBODY SMALL I COULD BEAT UP.
LOOK HONEY, CAN WE TALK ABOUT THAT OPERATION SOME OTHER TIME?

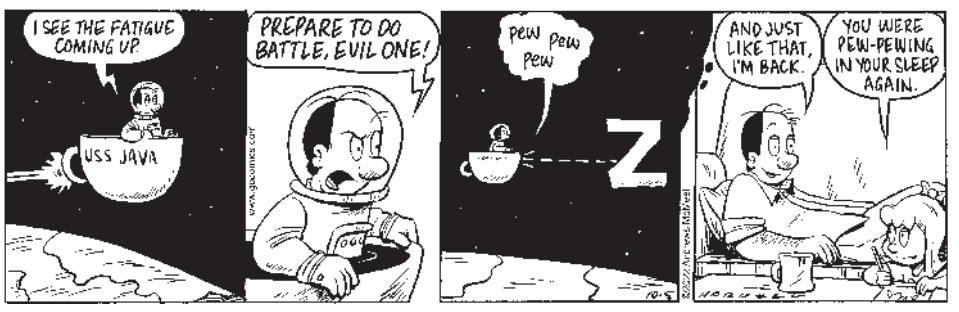
## Garfield®

By Jim Davis




## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I SEE THE FATIGUE COMING UP.
USS JAVA
PREPARE TO DO BATTLE, EVIL ONE!
PEW PEW PEW
Z
AND JUST LIKE THAT, I'M BACK.
YOU WERE PEW-PEWING IN YOUR SLEEP AGAIN.

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

## CROSSWORD

*By Eugene Sheffer*

**ACROSS**

1 Train alternative
4 Tease
7 Former frosh
8 Wyoming's — Range
10 Valerie Harper sitcom
11 Eventually
13 Play dough?
16 Observe
17 Concepts
18 Sailor
19 Peevish fit
20 Hardy lass
21 Winner's gesture
23 Seaboard
25 Sneaky laughs
26 Mediocre
27 Actress Gasteyer
28 Flinch, say
30 Gratuity
33 Work week start, for many
36 Some Algonquians
37 Smidgens
38 Where the action is
39 Family
40 Chang's brother
41 Solo in space

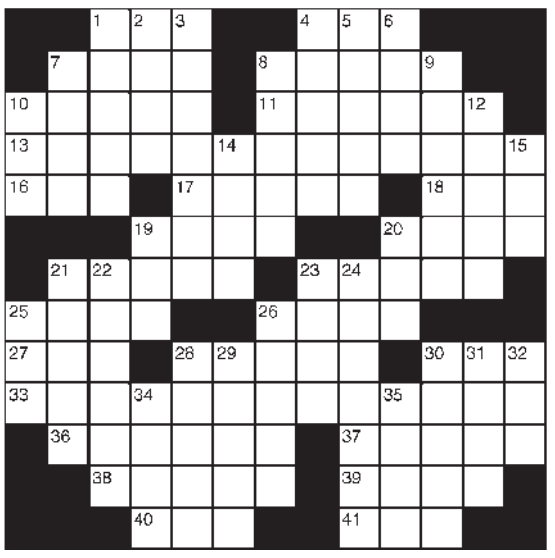
**DOWN**

1 Trailblazer Daniel
2 High hairstyle
3 Giving form to
4 Uganda neighbor
5 Things
6 Nitwit
7 Loafer, for one
8 Apartment sign
9 City on the Loire
10 Apt. divisions
12 Breadmaking need
14 Norse god
15 Decade parts (Abbr.)
19 Serena, to Venus
20 Eastern "way"
21 Snake poison
22 "The Woman in Me" singer Twain
23 Couturier Chanel
24 African bird
25 Scene stealer
26 "The Metamorphosis" protagonist
28 Asian noodles
29 Gawking at
30 Giant
31 — uproar
32 Film ratings
34 Challenge
35 The Big Easy acronym

Solution time: 23 mins.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| M | U | S | S | | O | H | M | | R | A | G | U | | |
| A | T | I | T | | P | A | M | | A | L | E | S | | |
| R | A | S | A | | C | H | I | F | F | O | N | S | | |
| C | H | I | L | E | A | N | | O | I | I | E | R | | |
| | | | L | O | S | | A | C | E | | | | | |
| B | R | A | S | S | | C | H | I | D | I | N | G | | |
| B | A | H | | | C | A | S | | | M | O | I | | |
| C | H | I | P | P | E | R | | T | H | O | R | N | | |
| | | | H | O | E | | O | R | O | | | | | |
| S | C | R | A | S | | C | I | N | C | P | S | | | |
| C | H | I | S | H | O | | M | | F | I | F | C | | |
| A | I | R | E | | D | U | A | | S | A | R | A | | |
| M | O | S | S | | D | E | N | | T | N | U | T | | |

Yesterday's answer 10-5



**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Kara Royster, 29; Jesse Eisenberg, 39; Scott Weinger, 47; Kate Winslet, 47.

**Happy Birthday:** Make personal growth a priority. Expand your interests, hone your skills and take responsibility for your life, happiness and success. Travel, education and experience will help you recognize what you want to do next and the best way to make your dreams come true. Pay attention to health, appearance and changing trends. Your numbers are 7, 12, 25, 29, 31, 38, 43.

**ARIES** *(March 21-April 19):* Observe what others are doing and how it will benefit your community, and you'll devise an efficient plan. Do your part, and you'll become the go-to person. Structure what happens to help others, and you'll gain allies. ✪✪✪✪

**TAURUS** *(April 20-May 20):* Be sure your promises are doable before you commit. Put in the time to figure out ways to improve the outcome. An intelligent but innovative plan will get you where you want to go. New beginnings will spark your imagination and offer hope. ✪✪

**GEMINI** *(May 21-June 20):* You'll require tunnel vision regarding work and getting ahead professionally. Spare no expense emotionally, financially and mentally when it comes to what you want. Rely on yourself to avoid disappointment. Make unique plans with someone you love, and emotional stability will prevail. ✪✪✪✪✪

**CANCER** *(June 21-July 22):* Use experience coupled with your imagination, and you will find a way to get what you want up and running. Put your energy where it counts, and a positive change at home will put your mind at ease. Scout for bargains.✪✪✪

**LEO** *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Don't bend because someone puts pressure on you. Stand your ground and alter whatever will make a difference or a contribution to something you want to improve. A pick-me-up will boost your ego. Update your appearance and nurture meaningful relationships. ✪✪✪

**VIRGO** *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Discuss what you want and how you plan to move forward, and you'll be able to set up changes to suit your needs. Making a lifestyle adjustment will pave the way to better days ahead. 3 stars

**LIBRA** *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Put your best foot forward and charm everyone you encounter. A positive attitude will get you further than complaints or criticism. Look at what's possible and incorporate work and pleasure into your day to balance negativity and uncertainty. ✪✪✪✪✪

**SCORPIO** *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Don't take anything for granted or expect others to live up to their word. Be prepared to do things yourself and to take the credit you deserve. Be receptive to the information you receive from someone knowledgeable. Don't overspend or risk your health. ✪✪

**SAGITTARIUS** *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* You have more going for you than you realize. Pull out all the stops and move full speed ahead. Discuss your intentions, pull in the people with something to contribute and make a change that offers the freedom to pursue your dream.✪✪✪✪

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**CAPRICORN** *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* An unusual change to how you handle money or earn your living is apparent. Be smart and formulate a plan that has long-term financial benefits. A move or home improvement is possible but also needs careful monitoring. Protect your health and well-being. ✪✪✪

**AQUARIUS** *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Don't let what others do or say get you down. Consider what will make you happy, and put your energy toward improving your home, relationships and personal growth. Assess your finances and move forward with confidence. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪

**PISCES** *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Hang on to your secrets, be a good listener and find out where you stand before you reveal your intentions. Use your skills to make improvements. A financial gain is apparent. ✪✪✪

**Birthday Baby:** You are refined, particular and patient. You are resourceful and diligent.

*✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.*

## SUDOKU

**Conceptis Sudoku** *By Dave Green*

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2 | 3 | 9 | | | 7 | 4 | |
| | | 7 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 3 | | |
| | | | | 8 | 6 | | | |
| | | | 8 | 1 | 2 | | | |
| | | 4 | | | 1 | | | |
| 6 | 1 | | 7 | | | 9 | | |
| 4 | | | | | | 8 | | |
| | 3 | 8 | 1 | | | 5 | | |
| | | | 5 | 4 | | 6 | | |

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/05

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesturday Answer

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| 8 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 7 |
| 5 | 9 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 8 |
| 1 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 6 |
| 6 | 5 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 9 |
| 9 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 2 |
| 4 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 3 |
| 3 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 4 |

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

**LET'S TALK ABOUT SOCIETY** Solution: 9 letters

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| P | E | O | P | L | E | S | R | E | H | C | A | E | T | P |
| I | L | C | U | L | T | U | R | E | S | S | G | R | R | R |
| H | A | Y | R | O | T | S | I | H | P | E | O | O | A | E |
| S | W | G | P | G | A | S | V | O | L | P | T | U | D | S |
| W | S | B | O | J | A | A | R | L | P | C | E | R | I | I |
| O | M | A | S | F | L | T | O | U | O | U | P | B | T | D |
| L | L | A | E | U | S | C | S | D | G | Y | U | A | I | E |
| L | I | T | E | O | T | C | N | A | T | I | O | N | O | N |
| E | Y | V | C | T | H | C | E | I | C | S | R | F | N | T |
| F | M | I | E | O | I | L | N | I | N | H | G | R | S | C |
| P | A | E | O | S | A | U | T | O | B | O | R | I | D | E |
| L | Y | L | A | R | M | I | I | I | N | A | I | E | L | N |
| A | O | B | U | M | Z | T | E | S | R | U | N | N | I | N |
| C | R | R | O | E | C | O | U | N | T | R | Y | D | U | O |
| E | E | C | N | A | I | L | L | A | C | O | L | G | B | C |

© 2022 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 10/5

Actions, Alliance, Band, Basic, Build, Citizen, College, Community, Connect, Country, Cultures, Doctor, Fellowship, Friend, Goal, Group, History, Jobs, Laws, League, Lives, Local, Mayor, Nation, Nurse, People, Place, President, Purpose, Rural, Safety, School, Social, Sports, Support, Teachers, Team, Traditions, Union, Urban, Value

**Yesterday's Answer: Internet**

**Treasuries 27, 29, 31 and 33 through 49** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

# Pujols hits No. 703, moves past Ruth for 2nd in RBIs

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Albert Pujols hit his 703rd home run Monday night, breaking a tie with Babe Ruth for second place in career RBIs, but the St. Louis Cardinals lost to Pittsburgh 3-2 when the Pirates drew four consecutive walks in the ninth inning to force home the winning run.

The 42-year-old slugger connected off right-hander Mitch Keller, pulling a two-run shot into the left-field stands to snap a scoreless tie in the sixth inning. It was Pujols' 35th career home run at PNC Park, his most at any visiting ballpark. The drive gave Pujols 2,216 RBIs, passing Ruth on the all-time list. Hank Aaron holds the record with 2,297.

With the score tied 2-all in the ninth inning, the Pirates loaded the bases when Ke'Bryan Hayes, Miguel Andujar and Rodolfo Castro drew consecutive walks from Giovanny Gallegos (3-6). JoJo Romero relieved and walked rookie Oneil Cruz to end the game.

Yohan Ramirez (4-1) pitched a scoreless ninth for the win.

AP

St. Louis Cardinals' Albert Pujols hits career home run No. 703 during the fifth inning of a baseball game against the Pittsburgh Pirates, Monday, Oct. 3, 2022, in Pittsburgh.

### Yankees 3, Rangers 1

In Arlington, Texas, Aaron Judge remained at 61 home runs with three games remaining, and Luis Severino pitched seven no-hit innings before Texas broke through against New York's bullpen.

Judge went 1 for 4 with a checked-swing infield single, a groundout, a strikeout and a liner into a double play. He is 2 for 12 with five walks and a hit by pitch since his 61st homer Wednesday in Toronto that tied Roger Maris' American League record. That is his only homer in 12 games.

Judge has a chance to become the first AL Triple Crown winner since Detroit's Miguel Cabrera in 2012. He leads the AL with 130 RBIs trails Minnesota's Luis Arraez .315 to 311 in the batting race.

### Phillies 3, Astros 0

In Houston, Aaron Nola took a perfect game into the seventh inning and Kyle Schwarber homered twice as Philadelphia clinched its first playoff berth in 11 years.

The Phillies clinched at the same ballpark where they secured their last postseason trip on Sept. 14, 2011. That game was a 1-0 victory over the Astros highlighted by a shutout by Hall of Famer Roy Halladay. Philadelphia's postseason drought was the longest active one in the majors after the Seattle Mariners clinched their first playoff berth in 21 years Friday night.

Nola (11-13) struck out nine and didn't allow a baserunner until Yordan Alvarez singled with two outs in the seventh. David Hensley followed with a single and Nola was replaced by Jose Alvarado, who struck out Kyle Tucker to end the inning.

### Blue Jays 5, Orioles 1

In Baltimore, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. hit his 32nd homer and Toronto earned the top seed for an American League wild card series with a rain-shortened victory over Baltimore.

Play was halted by rain with Toronto batting with two outs in the eighth and called after a wait of 55 minutes.

Toronto clinched the right to host a best-of-three playoff series against Seattle or Tampa Bay starting Friday when the Mariners lost to Detroit later Monday.

Whit Merrifield went 3 for 3 with an RBI for the Blue Jays, who have won for straight.

### Marlins 4, Braves 0

In Miami, Jesús Luzardo struck out 12 in six innings, Bryan De La Cruz hit a two-run homer and Miami prevented Atlanta from clinching its fifth straight NL East title.

After sweeping the rival Mets at home over the weekend, Atlanta arrived in Miami needing one win or a New York loss to wrap up the division crown and a first-round playoff bye.

But the Braves were unable to solve Luzardo or slow De La Cruz — and the Mets were rained out at home against Washington. New York is 1 1/2 games behind Atlanta heading into Tuesday's doubleheader versus the last-place Nationals, while the Braves will play the second of three games at fourth-place Miami.

### White Sox 3, Twins 2

In Chicago, the White Sox watched manager Tony La Russa announce he was leaving his position, and then beat Minnesota behind Johnny Cueto's seven effective innings.

La Russa stepped down because of a pair of health issues, punctuating a disappointing season for the Hall of Famer in the same spot where he got his first job as a big league skipper. The White Sox are 80-80 after beginning the year with championship aspirations.

La Russa met with his team before announcing the move, and the players joined their former manager for his press conference about the decision.

### Red Sox 4, Rays 3

In Boston, Tyler Glasnow gave playoff-bound Tampa Bay a short but strong start in his second outing since Tommy John surgery last year, but the Boston Red Sox rallied against the bullpen to hand the Rays their fourth straight loss.

Boston pushed Tampa Bay closer to the No. 6 playoff seed in the AL. The Rays entered the night trailing Seattle by 1 1/2 games for the fifth seed. Tampa Bay will either face AL East rival Toronto, which occupies the top wild-card spot, or AL Central champion Cleveland in the opening round.

Glasnow struck out seven and held the Red Sox to two hits in 3 2/3 innings.

Christian Arroyo hit a two-run double and Kiké Hernández added a tying RBI double during a three-run sixth inning for last-place Boston, which ended a three-game skid. Rafael Devers drove in the go-ahead run with a sacrifice fly in the seventh.

### Brewers 6, Diamondbacks 5, 10 innings

In Milwaukee, Hunter Renfroe homered in a ninth-inning comeback and singled home the winning run in the 10th but Milwaukee was eliminated from postseason contention despite a victory.

The Brewers knew at the start of the night they could earn the NL's final wild-card spot only if they won their last three games while Philadelphia lost three straight. Milwaukee's chances ended nine minutes after their walk-off when the Phillies (87-73) beat Houston to clinch the National League's third and final wild card.

Milwaukee (85-75) trailed 4-1 before tying the game in the ninth with help from an Arizona fielding miscue. Renfroe led off the ninth with a homer off Joe Mantiply and Victor Caratini hit a hard grounder that got past first baseman Christian Walker, scoring Christian Yelich and Kolten Wong on the error.

Sergio Alcántara had a homer and three RBIs for Arizona, and Cooper Hummel also homered. Yelich went deep for the Brewers.

### Reds 3, Cubs 1

In Cincinnati, Hunter Greene pitched six scoreless innings and Cincinnati remained at 99 losses.

The Reds (61-99) snapped a six-game skid and can avoid losing at least 100 games for the second time in franchise history if they sweep the three-game series. Cincinnati finished 61-101 in 1982.

Greene (5-13) and relievers Derek Law, Buck Farmer and Alexis Diaz combined on a two-hitter to stop the Cubs' winning streak at seven games. Chicago only got one runner past second base before scoring under odd circumstances in the ninth against Diaz, who picked up his 10th save.

The Cubs scored in the ninth on a game-ending double play that wasn't completed until Esteban Quiroz wandered off second base and was tagged.

### Royals 5, Guardians 2, 10 innings

In Cleveland, rookie Drew Waters belted a three-run homer off Kirk McCarty in the 10th inning, sending Kansas City past Cleveland.

Waters' third home run in four games landed on the porch in left field, scoring automatic runner Nicky Lopez and Michael A. Taylor. The 23-year-old outfielder went 2 for 4 with four RBIs as Kansas City won for the second time in seven games.

Cleveland has won 11 of 14 and is an MLB-best 22-6 since Sept. 5. The Guardians will host either Tampa Bay or Seattle in a best-of-three wild-card series beginning Friday.

### Tigers 4, Mariners 3

In Seattle, the Seattle Mariners will start their first playoff trip in two decades on the road after a costly loss at home to Detroit, which got a two-run homer from Javier Báez.

Sam Haggerty singled with two outs in the ninth and hurt his left groin while sliding into second base successfully. He needed assistance to leave the field, an arm draped over manager Scott Servais and an athletic trainer. Haggerty is to have an MRI Tuesday.

Andrew Chafin struck out Carlos Santana for his third save.

Seattle, assured of a postseason trip for the first time since 2001, will open a best-of-three series at Tampa Bay or Cleveland on Friday, with all three games on the road.

### Padres 7, Giants 4

In San Diego, Joe Musgrove pitched six shutout innings in a potential postseason tune-up and Wil Myers homered to cap a seven-run eighth that carried San Diego past San Francisco.

One night after clinching a wild card, the Padres remained a game ahead of the Phillies for the No. 5 seed in the National League playoffs. Philadelphia secured its first postseason berth in 11 years with a 3-0 win at Houston.

The fifth seed will play a best-of-three series on the road this weekend against the Mets or Braves — whichever one does not win the NL East. The sixth seed will play its best-of-three set at NL Central champion St. Louis.

If the Padres and Phillies finish with identical records, Philadelphia holds the season-series tiebreaker and would get the No. 5 seed.

### Rockies 2, Dodgers 1

In Los Angeles, All-Star pitcher Tony Gonsolin tossed two innings in his return from the injured list, an encouraging sign for playoff-bound Los Angeles in its loss to Colorado.

Trayce Thompson homered for the NL West champions, who have already clinched home-field advantage throughout the postseason.

Michael Toglia singled home the tiebreaking run for the Rockies in the ninth off Brusdar Graterol (2-4), scoring Sean Bouchard.

Jake Bird (2-4) worked two hitless innings and Justin Lawrence got three outs for his first career save.

### Athletics 5, Angels 4, 10 innings

In Oakland, Calif., pinch hitter Tony Kemp had an RBI single in the bottom of the 10th inning, capping a spirited comeback that sent Oakland past Los Angeles.

Cristian Bride's sacrifice bunt leading off the inning against Angels reliever Zack Weiss (0-1) advanced automatic runner Jonah Bride to third, and Kemp punched a single through the right side of the infield to drive in the winning run.

The A's trailed 4-2 going into the bottom of the ninth and were down to their last out when Seth Brown's two-run single off Aaron Loup tied it. Loup blew his fifth save in six attempts.

Domingo Acevedo (4-4) pitched a scoreless 10th inning for the win.

# 49ers use defense, Deebo Samuel to beat Rams 24-9

**SANTA CLARA, Calif.** (AP)—A dominant defense and Deebo Samuel.

The formula that has been so successful for the San Francisco 49ers against the Los Angeles Rams delivered another convincing win.

Samuel turned a short catch into an electric 57-yard touchdown, Talanoa Hufanga returned an interception for a score and the 49ers beat the Rams 24-9 Monday night.

"We knew it would be an ice-bag game," Hufanga said. "Every time we play these guys it's a physical matchup. For us as a defense, we want to be the rock. We want to be solid on defense, stand our ground and go out there and swarm."

Jeff Wilson Jr. also scored on a 32-yard run that gave the Niners (2-2) their seventh straight regular-season win over their in-state rivals.

The Rams (2-2) won the matchup that meant most in last season's NFC championship game on the way to a Super Bowl title, but this meeting looked more like their recent regular-season meetings.

San Francisco used a relentless defense to slow down coach Sean McVay's offense and got enough big plays for the win.

Nick Bosa had two of San Francisco's seven sacks against Matthew Stafford to give him an NFL-best six on the season and Hufanga iced it with his 52-yard pick-6 in the fourth quarter. It was San Francisco's fourth pick-6 against the Rams in their last six regular-season meetings.

"The story of the night from an offensive perceptive was self-inflicted wounds," McVay said. "Just above the neck errors where we're not doing the things that we are capable of and I expect us to be better than that."

Samuel once again delivered the big blows offensively. The key play came late in the second quarter when he turned what looked to be an interception by Jimmy Garoppolo into a touchdown.

Derion Kendrick jumped the 5-yard route and nearly got the pick. But Samuel made the catch and that's when his work really started.

He broke tackles from Taylor Rapp and Jalen Ramsey and weaved his way through the Rams defense for the final 52 yards to give the Niners a 14-6 lead.

"It was just me and the ball out there," Samuel said. "I just go out and break some tackles like I do all the time."

AP

San Francisco 49ers wide receiver Deebo Samuel (19) runs toward the end zone to score against the Los Angeles Rams during the first half of an NFL football game in Santa Clara, Calif., Monday, Oct. 3, 2022.

Samuel has scored seven TDs and thrown another touchdown in eight career games against Los Angeles.

"He does that time and time again," tackle Mike McGlinchey said. "There's a reason he's one of our best players. He delivers for us in our biggest moments at all times, and especially against that damn team."

The Rams moved the ball efficiently down the field on the opening drive before a sack by Samson Ebukam stalled the drive and forced Los Angeles into a field goal.

Los Angeles struggled to move the ball consistently after that and the Rams couldn't finish drives when they did. They were held to field goals on three trips into the red zone.

San Francisco struck back with big plays that led to two long touchdowns. Wilson took advantage of string blocking on a 32-yard burst up the middle on the opening drive for the 49ers that made it 7-3.

Samuel added the second touchdown and Robbie Gould kicked a 25-yard field goal after a Niners drive stalled at the 1. Gould missed a 42-yarder midway through the fourth quarter to keep the Rams in the game until Stafford's interception on a screen that Hufanga anticipated perfectly.

"You can smell a rat when it comes to those things," he said. "They've been running screens all night. I saw a different release than I'm used to. Instead of following man, I turned my head and the ball dropped to me."

One of the biggest hits of the game was delivered to a protestor who ran out on the field late in the second quarter with a device letting out pink smoke.

As the protestor got close to the Rams sidelined, linebacker Bobby Wagner came off and flattened him with a big hit. The man was taken off the field by security and the game quickly resumed.

"I just saw someone running on the field," Wagner said. "It looked like he wasn't supposed to be on the field so I saw security was having a problem so I helped them out."

# NFL's handling of concussions questioned after Tua's injury

**By ROB MAADDI**
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

The NFL's handling of concussions has evolved dramatically from the days when players were given smelling salts on the bench and sent back into the game.

The league and the NFL Players Association have implemented extensive protocols and hired unaffiliated neurotrauma consultants (UNC) to work with team physicians at each game to diagnose concussions.

Still, football is a violent sport and injuries similar to the frightening one Miami Dolphins quarterback Tua Tagovailoa suffered Thursday night seem unavoidable unless the NFL bans tackling and turns the game into flag football like it did for the Pro Bowl.

That's not happening, and the most effective means of protecting players remains enforcing strict concussion protocols, which players, fans and others are concerned didn't happen with Tagovailoa.

It would be difficult to prevent what happened to Tagovailoa when 6-foot-3, 340-pound Bengals defensive tackle Josh Tupou slammed him backward into the turf. The main question is why he was even playing just four days after he stumbled off the field and was unable to walk following a hit to his head during a home game against Buffalo.

Tagovailoa's hands froze up and his fingers flexed awkwardly in front of his facemask for several seconds as he laid on the turf in Cincinnati, a scary scene witnessed by millions of viewers. He remained on the ground for several minutes until he was taken away on a stretcher and sent to a hospital.

This time — unlike Sunday when he seemed to exhibit concussion symptoms but was cleared by a team physician and UNC to return — Tagovailoa was diagnosed with a concussion. He was released from the hospital and flew home with the team. Flying hours after suffering a concussion raised questions, but NFL chief medical officer Dr. Allen Sills said the hospital makes that decision.

Tagovailoa's quick return Sunday prompted a joint review by the NFL and NFLPA. The interview process has started and results aren't expected for at least another week. Tagovailoa and the team explained his legs were wobbly because of a back injury.

It's unknown whether there's any correlation between the two incidents. Concussions are common in the NFL, especially when a player is thrown to the ground by a man Tupou's size and his head hits the turf.

Sills said "it's impossible to know" if the injury Tagovailoa sustained Thursday was exacerbated by the hit he took Sunday.

"That's one of the factors that we want to look at," Sills said on NFL Network. "Every injury is one we want to prevent."

Chris Nowinski, a founder of the Concussion Legacy Foundation who played football at Harvard, is adamant Tagovailoa sustained a concussion against Buffalo and shouldn't have played at Cincinnati.

"Tua showed five distinct signs of concussion," Nowinski told The Associated Press. "Anybody who has any training on concussions or cares about Tua as a human is not putting him on field four days after what he showed on Sunday, so this makes it so much worse because we know that this could be career-ending or season-ending. It should be season-ending, in my opinion. And it just shows just a lack of care for him as a human being."

The league and the NFLPA instituted concussion protocols in 2011 when Colt McCoy took a helmet-to-helmet hit in a game and returned without being tested for a concussion. The protocols have been expanded since.

There are three UNCs, who are paid jointly by the NFL and NFLPA, at each game. They work in conjunction with team physicians to diagnose whether a player has a concussion. Independent certified athletic trainers (ATC spotters) sit in a booth and monitor the players on the field to have someone removed from the game if they see an impact to the head. Team trainers, coaches or physicians, teammates, game officials, sideline UNCs or booth ATCs also can initiate the protocol.

All players who undergo any concussion evaluation on game day must have a follow-up evaluation conducted the following day by a member of the medical staff. Sills said Tagovailoa was evaluated every day leading up to the game, even though he wasn't in concussion protocol.

Several players have spoken about passing protocol even when they had concussions. Andrew Whitworth, the former Rams offensive lineman, said on Amazon's broadcast he once played through a concussion during a game until a teammate noticed he wasn't right and alerted doctors.

The league has experimented with other means to mitigate head injuries. This year, offensive linemen, defensive linemen, tight ends and linebackers were required for the first time to wear Guardian Caps — a soft-shell, padded covering on top of their helmets — during practices from the start of training camp until the second preseason game.

The average number of concussions among those positions groups dropped from 23 over the previous three-year period to 11 this summer, the league said. Of those 11 concussions, six resulted from blows to the facemask, which didn't have added protection.

Tagovailoa is under pressure to perform this season and has battled injuries in the past, so it's natural for him to want to play regardless of injury. Former players who have criticized the decision to let him play Sunday say they want to protect players from themselves.

"We are all outraged by what we have seen the last several days and scared for the safety of one of our brothers," NFLPA president JC Tretter wrote on Twitter. "What everyone saw both Sunday and last night were 'no-go' symptoms within our concussion protocols. The protocols exist to protect the player and that is why we initiated an investigation. Our job as the NFLPA is to take every possible measure to get the facts and hold those responsible accountable. We need to figure out how and why the decisions were made last Sunday to allow a player with a 'no-go' symptom back on the field.

"Until we have an objective and validated method of diagnosing brain injury, we have to do everything possible, including amending the protocols, to further reduce the potential of human error. A failure in medical judgment is a failure of the protocols when it comes to the well being of our players. We have come a long way over the past 15 years but the last week proves how far we have left to go."

The decision to allow Tagovailoa to return Sunday was made by the team physician and UNC. It was determined Tagovailoa's instability was caused by a back injury. The joint review by the league and NFLPA will examine the steps taken and a report will be issued.

# Simmons, Kawhi, Jamal Murray back among NBA happy returns

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Ben Simmons streaked behind the defense and caught a pass in transition that he dunked. About a minute later, he fired a cross-court pass to a Brooklyn Nets teammate for a 3-pointer.

Those were the types of plays the Philadelphia 76ers had seen many times before.

On Monday, Simmons finally made them for another team.

Simmons played against his former club in his first NBA game since June 2021, making him among a number of big names who got back to basketball action.

"I'm grateful just to be able to step on that floor, step on an NBA floor again," Simmons said. "So I had a lot of fun out there."

Kawhi Leonard also returned for the Los Angeles Clippers, as did Jamal Murray for the Denver Nuggets, after they both sat out last season recovering from surgeries for ACL tears.

"539 days later… BOUT THAT TIME!!" Murray wrote on Twitter.

"Just being able to put all that hard work that I did throughout the, whatever, 14, 16 months, just being able to put that into test playing against NBA talent was good," Leonard said after the Clippers 102-97 win over Portland. "Just being out there with the guys, talking, I missed it. It was a great experience for me."

That's no doubt how their teams felt after expecting to be title contenders last season but instead having those hopes wrecked by injuries. Paul George also missed significant time for the Clippers, and Michael Porter Jr. was out for all but nine games for the Nuggets.

They all played Monday, along with Damian Lillard returning for Portland after missing the final 47 games last season, when the Clippers and Trail Blazers met in a preseason game.

"As a fan of the game, Kawhi being back is great for basketball, Jamal Murray being back is great for basketball," the Nets' Kevin Durant said. "All the guys that have been out injured and able to play again, it's a great feeling just seeing them out there."

AP

Brooklyn Nets guard Ben Simmons (10) points during the first half of a preseason NBA basketball game against the Philadelphia 76ers, Monday, Oct. 3, 2022, in New York.

Simmons hoped he was close to playing last February after getting traded to the Nets in a deal headlined by James Harden. Simmons had cited mental health reasons in seeking a trade from the 76ers following a disappointing postseason when he took a bulk of the criticism after the No. 1 seed in the Eastern Conference was ousted by Atlanta in the second round.

But a herniated disk kept him from making a late-season debut and forced him to get offseason surgery.

Fully cleared now, Simmons was in the starting lineup and finished with six points, five assists and four rebounds in 19 minutes. He went weakly out of Philadelphia, with the last memory of the 2016 No. 1 pick's time there passing up a layup down the stretch of the Game 7 loss to the Hawks. But he looked confident pushing the ball in transition or playmaking from the post — though did miss his only two free throws.

Simmons said he thought he would feel nervous but didn't. Durant recalled feeling anxious when he returned after missing the 2019-20 season after Achilles tendon surgery.

"You wonder how your lungs are going to feel playing in an organized game because playing pickup, working out is different than playing in a game," Durant said. "So you just want to see where your legs are on the jump shot. So being away for a year, you get a lot of anxiety coming back. I know I did."

In Seattle, a bevy of big names made their preseason debuts before a sold-out crowd in just the second preseason game between NBA teams in the Emerald City since the departure of the SuperSonics for Oklahoma City.

While there were Clippers and Blazers fans, the prominent color was overwhelmingly green and gold amid constant hope that some day the Sonics will return.

The fans that showed up were treated to Leonard's first action since injuring his knee during the 2021 Western Conference semifinals, just a few days before Simmons.

Leonard looked just fine, knocking down his first shot 15 seconds into the game and scored 11 points in 16 minutes in the first half. John Wall also made his debut with the Clippers after the five-time All-Star did not play last season. Wall scored five points in 11 minutes and George added 12 points in 16 minutes. All three played just the first half.

Lillard played into the second half and had 16 points in 23 minutes.

The royalty of Seattle basketball turned out, including Lenny Wilkens, Shawn Kemp, Gary Payton, Jamal Crawford, George Karl, Detlef Schrempf, Sam Perkins and many others connected to the city's hoops history. Clippers owner Steve Ballmer grabbed the microphone before tipoff and thanked his hometown for turning out.

"I watched thousands of basketball games in Seattle — CYO, little kids, AAU, pro, college, you name it. So if this is a basketball city, damnit, let's hear it," Ballmer screamed right before tipoff, eliciting huge cheers from the crowd.

Murray's absence in Denver was even longer, having torn his ACL in April 2021 and leaving him unable to try to duplicate the brilliant postseason he had while leading the Nuggets to the 2020 West finals at Walt Disney World.

Murray scored 10 points in 15 minutes for the Nuggets in their loss to Oklahoma City.

## *Cavs forward Mobley out at least 2 weeks with sprained ankle*

**CLEVELAND** (AP)—Cavaliers starting forward Evan Mobley will miss time with a sprained right ankle suffered during practice, an injury that could sideline him for the start of the regular season in two weeks.

Mobley injured his ankle during a workout on Saturday. The team said Monday that an MRI confirmed the injury and that the 7-footer will be out "approximately 1-2 weeks."

Mobley will miss Wednesday's exhibition game at Philadelphia. The Cavs have three preseason games next week before opening the season on Oct. 19 in Toronto. Their home opener is Oct. 23.

The Cavs said Mobley is undergoing treatment and his "status will be updated as appropriate."

Cleveland's expecting big things this season from Mobley, who averaged 15.0 points, 8.3 rebounds and 1.7 blocks as a rookie. He added muscle during the offseason and worked on his perimeter game, adding a 3-pointer to his arsenal.

Mobley finished second in rookie of the year voting to Toronto's Scottie Barnes.

Last week, Cavs coach J.B. Bickerstaff said Mobley is already to take another step in his development.

"He has the ability to be a superstar without being the leading scorer on your team," Bickerstaff said at media day. "He has an opportunity to be the best player on the floor without having to take the most shots. That's hard to find.

"He can stuff the stat sheet in every category, that's our expectation for him. We want him eventually — and hopefully it's this year — to be in the conversation for Defensive Player of the Year. We believe he has that type of ability and can have that type of impact on the floor."

## GES

*From Page 20*

up one goal courtesy of Mateo Angeles.

The Mallards, on the other hand, duck-walked their way through the field with ease, scoring two of their goals in the first half and three of their goals in the second half.

Kanoa Owens was the star of the team once again as he scored three of the team's five goals. Casmiro Cosmes and Angel Calayag contributed the other two goals.

To get to the semifinals, WSR 1 blanked Koblerville Elementary School 1, 4-0; Grace Christian Academy beat Koblerville Elementary School 2, 3-1; GES 1 defeated Saipan International School, 6-1; and WSR 2 had an easy win after they won by forfeit against San Vicente Elementary School in the quarterfinals last Friday.

GES 1 and WSR 2 will face off in the finals today at 5:30pm at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville, right after the battle for third place between WSR 1 and Grace Christian Academy at 4pm.

### WSR-2 13, WSR-1 2

It was the battle of the Kingfishers as WSR 1 and WSR 2 squared off for the last spot in the championship game. WSR 2 got the best of their sister team as they blew them out of the sky, 13-2.

Aldric Jon Antonio of WSR 2 drew first blood as he scored the first goal just three minutes into the game. He ended up scoring two more goals for the team.

WSR 1 showed that they were not to be counted out yet as Landin Reyes managed to score in the 11th minute. However, WSR 2 kept the goals coming as they navigated through the defense and goalie to put up 10 of their 13 goals in the first half. WSR 1 was able to score one more goal before falling to their schoolmates.

Joshua Lizama dominated the field as he scored four of WSR 2's goals, while Salman Kamal netted three goals. Jiro Quindoza, Michael Olaitiman, and Darshwanna Chhetri scored one goal each.

The Northern Mariana Islands Football Association coordinates the 2022-2023 NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Soccer League along with the Public School System Athletic Program.

## SIS

*From Page 20*

elementary school girls division with a time of 7:54. She was followed by Kaylen Taflinger of Oleai Elementary School with a time of 8:08, and Scarlett Burrell came in third with a time of 8:26.

For the middle school girls division, Agape Christian School came in a close second with 22 points, and Tanapag Middle School came in third with 59 points.

Sara Barman of Tanapag Middle School came in first in the middle school girls division with a time of 15:50, followed by Barbara Wang of ACS at 15:59, and Lucy Hong of ACS as well at 17:33.

SIS headmaster Dr. Ron Snyder is already looking forward to the upcoming championships.

"I am really excited about the upcoming championships. The powerhouse of Agape HS boys is back and will produce some amazing results and competition for the reigning champions MHS. HS girls and MS girls [have] been very competitive and will produce some close results. The SIS elementary team is young—most under 9 years old but they have been tremendously persistent and I think we have a great shot. This will be an exciting meet with some real nail biting finishes."

Like the third qualifier, this qualifier had a total of 274 runners take part in the event; and as the previous qualifiers, the high school division course was three miles, the middle school division course was two miles, and the elementary school division course was one mile.

The championship is less than two weeks away from now on Saturday, Oct. 15 at the Saipan Country Club.

Northern Marianas Athletics is coordinating the event along with the Public School System Athletic Program.

## TMS

*From Page 20*

The Hilitais were no match against the Tatagas' prowess on the field as they were not able to see the back of the net for the entirety of the game.

Javen Camacho swept past the Hilitais' goalkeeper to score the team's first goal, just two minutes into the game. Camacho did not stop his reign of terror on the opposing team as he found the back of the net five more times for a total of six goals in the game.

Teammates Jayten Villagomez, Cris Albero, and Prince Espiritu jumped on the bandwagon as they scored the three other goals. Five goals were made in the first half and the other five were made in the second half.

TMS 1 consists of Cris Albero, Javen Camacho, Japhet Dino, Prince Espiritu, Jhack Guiao, Yutaka Kadokura, Ezekiel Meneses, Arkin Pajarillaga, Riku Takahashi, Roman Teigita, Rhayne Umali, and Jayten Villagomez.

The Tatagas and Guardians are both at two wins with no loss. HMS 2 has yet to win at three losses.

### SCS 2, FMS 0

The last game of the day was dominated by Saipan Community School as they defeated Francisco M. Sablan Middle School, 2-0.

David Ye scored the first goal three minutes into the first half and David Ma'ase De Oro scored the second goal in the second half.

This loss brought FMS to one win and two losses in Group A.

The Guardians team includes Jin Choi, David Ma'ase De Oro, Soo Ho Jin, Daniel Malus, Raypatrick Mcdonald, Jose Sablan, Landon Springer, David Ye, and Richard Zhou.

The Northern Mariana Islands Football Association coordinates the 2022-2023 NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Soccer League along with the Public School System Athletic Program.

**Pujols hits No. 703, moves past Ruth for 2nd in RBIs**

**PAGE 17**

Saipan Tribune
# Sports

**Simmons, Kawhi, Jamal Murray back among NBA happy returns**

**PAGE 19**

# SIS dominates ES and MS girls cross country

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Saipan International School elementary cross country team pose for a photo with their coach Kathy Ruszala during the second All Schools Cross Country qualifier at Kagman Elementary School.

**By LEIGH GASES**
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The youngest athletes of the Saipan International School Geckos raced to the top of the elementary school division and the girls middle school division in the fourth and last 2022-2023 NMA-PSS All Schools Cross Country qualifier last Saturday at the Commonwealth Ports Authority field near the airport.

The Geckos stuck it to their competition as they collected 24 points in the elementary school boys division, garnered 16 points in the elementary school girls division, and had 21 points in the middle school girls division.

In second place in the boys division, Brilliant Star School had 50 points, followed by Agape Christian School with 61 points.

Quido Jambor of SIS came in first in the individual race with a time of 7:33, followed by Kanoa Owens of Garapan Elementary School with a time of 7:44, while Reyviel Escarlan came in third with a time of 7:47.

Oleai Elementary School accumulated 35 points and was second place in the elementary school girls division, with Mount Carmel School in third with 91 points.

Leilani Ruszala of SIS scorched the competition as she came in the fastest of the

**See SIS on Page 19**

# GES 1, WSR 2 reach ES finals

**By LEIGH GASES**
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Garapan Elementary School 1 and William S. Reyes 2 reached the elementary school soccer championship in the NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Soccer League after eliminating their respective opponents in the semifinals last Monday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

The first game of the semifinals was between GES 1 and Grace Christian Academy, which the Mallards won 5-1 to secure their spot in the finals. The Kingfishers joined them after they won their match against their sister team, WSR 1.

The Eagles put up a valiant effort as they soared through the field alongside the Mallards but were only able to put

**See GES on Page 19**

LEIGH GASES
Garapan Elementary School's William Flores (6) and Casmiro Cosmes scramble for the ball against Oleai Elementary School in Week 1 of the 2022-2023 NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Soccer League at the NMI Training Center in Koblerville.

## *TMS, SCS remain undefeated in MS soccer*

**By LEIGH GASES**
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Tanapag Middle School 1 and Saipan Community School are undefeated in Group A of the 2022-2023 NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Soccer League after winning their games last Thursday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

The Tatagas faced off with Hopwood Middle School 2 and shut them down, 10-0.

**See TMS on Page 19**

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Tanapag Middle School 1 team poses with their coach Catherine Torculas prior to their game in the 2022-2023 NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Soccer League at the NMI Soccer Training Center.